Adam Lallana | Nathaniel Clyne | Dortmund 2001 | Liverpool Ladies | Late winners | Klopp tees

LIVERPOOL FC



official liverpool fc monthly magazine

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GIVE BACK TO THE KIDS BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF THIS WORLD

SAKHO! SAKHO! SAKHO!

GUERRIER YOU UNDERSTAND THIS WORD? IT MEANS I AM A WARRIOR

I'M SHY WHEN THE FANS SHOUT MY NAME

IN FOOTBALL EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

WORK HARD AND DO NOT GIVE UP

I AM IN LIFE JUST AS I AM IN FOOTBALL

I DON'T NEED TO SHOW I'M A GOOD GUY BUT I DO WANT TO LEAD BY EXAMPLE

I TRY TO PLAY WITH QUALITY AND STAY TRUE TO WHO I AM - IF THE FANS LIKE IT I'M HAPPY



Issue 45 May 2016

Contents

One hundred pages packed with everything to do with Liverpool FC – it's enough to make any rabid Reds fan twirl their scarf along to Ring of Fire! De-de-de-derr…

LIVERPOOL

A lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to.

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current Reds stars, the stats that matter plus a few blasts from the past.

CLUB

How the club reaches out to communities at home and abroad, plus stadium news, fab official merchandise, and fan representatives.

Trinity Mirror Sport Media
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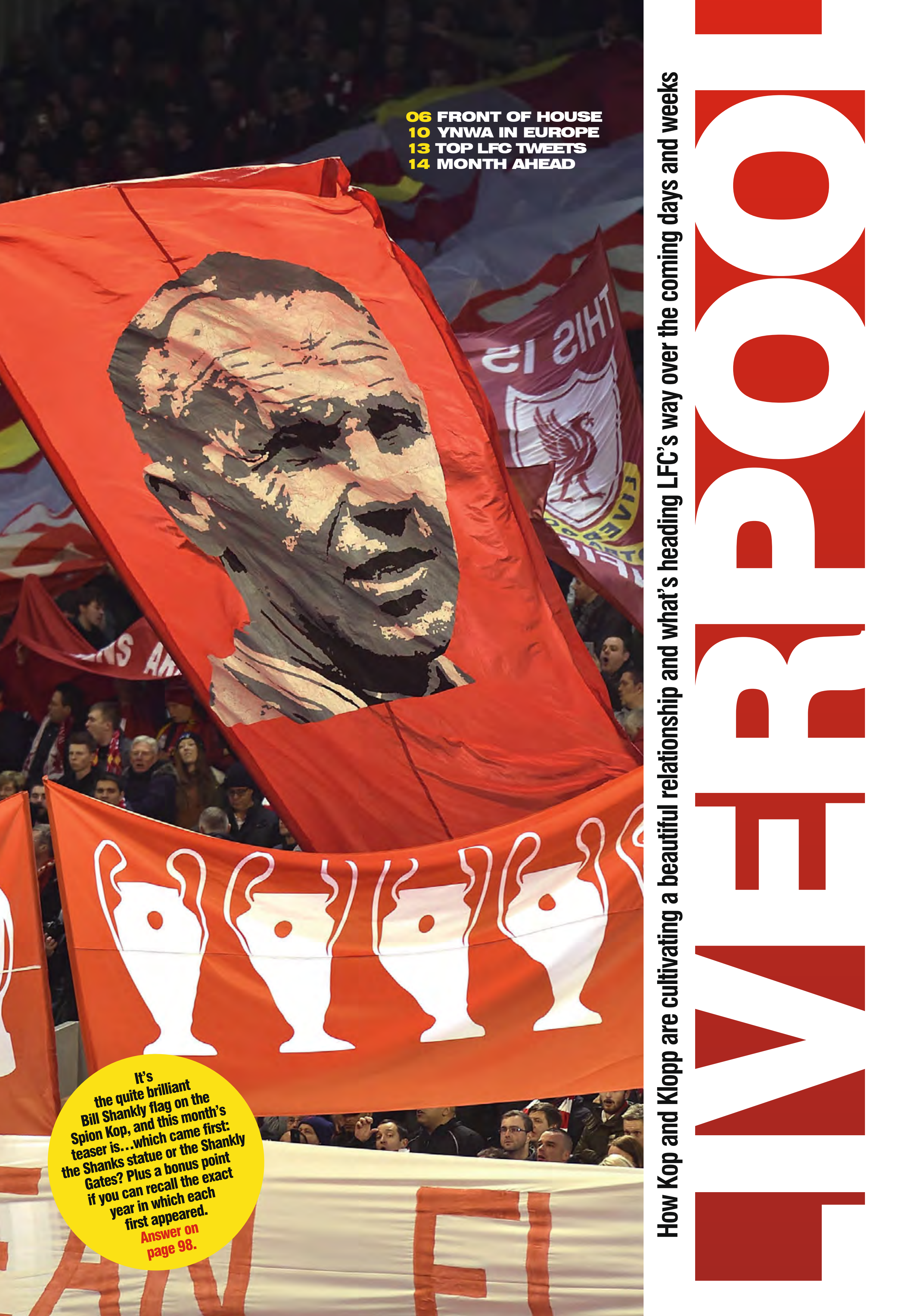
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INTRO

How Kop and Klopp are cultivating a beautiful relationship and what's heading LFC's way over the coming days and weeks



It's the quite brilliant Bill Shankly flag on the Spion Kop, and this month's teaser is…which came first: the Shanks statue or the Shankly Gates? Plus a bonus point if you can recall the exact year in which each first appeared. Answer on page 98.

THIS IS ANFI



ELD

The colour, noise and sheer passion for the first leg of the UEFA Europa League round of 16 tie against Manchester United was the best during Jürgen Klopp's managerial reign so far. "The atmosphere was unbelievable," the Reds boss told reporters in his post-match press conference. "It was really great and I want to say thank you to everyone who was involved… That was Liverpool how I knew it before I came here – really, really great."



The headline in the following day's *Liverpool Echo* was: 'Fans and players create unstoppable force'. Writer James Pearce reported: "The Kop created a wall of noise. Among the array of banners was one that read: 'Liverpool FC Support & Believe'. Another simply: 'European Elite'. This may have been Europe's second tier competition but there was nothing second rate about the sense of occasion. The spine-tingling rendition of *You'll Never Walk Alone* was laced with emotion and Klopp's men fed off that electric atmosphere."


UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
FedEx

YNWA

The anthem was belted out in style before kick-off against United as these LFCTV clips make clear























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ROBBIE ON THE RUN

Liverpool FC legend turns out with thousands of runners for city half-marathon and road race

Former Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler was on hand to cheer more than 5,000 runners from 16 countries at last month's Vitality Liverpool Half Marathon.

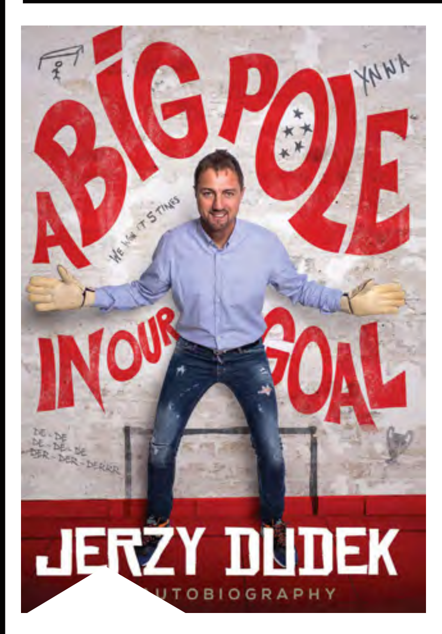
Robbie joined the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Liverpool as special guests at the event. First staged in 1994 and now organised by BTR Liverpool, it started and finished along the waterfront under the gaze of the Liver Birds at the Pier Head, and for the first time there was also a new Liverpool 10-Mile Road Race which proved popular with runners.

A new course record for the 13.1 mile half-marathon route was set by the female winner, Michelle Nolan of Gateshead Harriers, at one hour, 20 minutes and 19 seconds. The first male home was Dejene Gezimu from Liverpool Harriers in 1:06:58.

Medical insurer Vitality is the Official Wellness Partner of Liverpool FC.

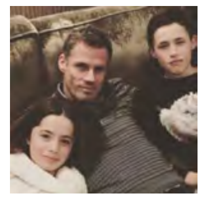


Tweets of the month





@SportMediaTM
Happy Birthday @Jurek_Dudek
What better time to share your new book cover, out in April sportmediashop.com



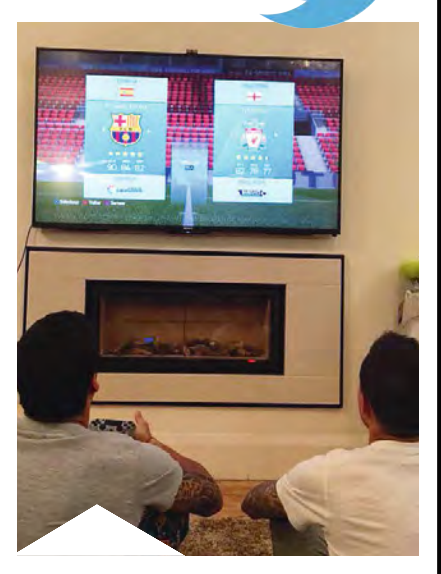
Jamie Carragher @Carra23
Johan Cruyff one of the most influential figures on our game we've ever seen. RIP





Jon Flanagan @jon_flan93
Delighted to sign new deal. Proud!

Christian Benteke @chrisbenteke
Pray for Belgium Pray for the world 🙏 all my thoughts are with family and friends of the victims.





Luis Suarez @LuisSuarez9
Como siempre, dando clases a mi amigo @Phil_Coutinho en todos los juegos. 😜🎮 Gracias por todo amigos!!!!



Alan Fletcher @doctorkk
Sensational day! 26 years married to the beautiful @jenahansen. @ neighbours turns 31. Son gets driving license & @ LFC beats @ManUtd :)

WHAT'S



ON: APR

HILLSBOROUGH: THE LAST SERVICE

Friday 15 April 2016 will be the 27th anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster that cost 96 Liverpool fans their lives. This year is an extremely significant landmark for the families as it marks the conclusion of the Hillsborough Inquests and also sees the final Memorial Service to be held at Anfield Stadium.

The service will commence at 2.45pm prompt with access to the stadium possible from 1pm. A one-minute silence will be observed at 3.06pm and the service will conclude at around 3.45pm with the singing of *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

Margaret Aspinall, chair of the Hillsborough Family Support Group, says: "Every day we continue to remember the 96 who lost their lives. The 27th anniversary Hillsborough Memorial Service will be the last service to be held at Anfield Stadium. For many people, 15 April may be a working day and there will be those who are unable to attend. We invite you to join us in thought and spirit and keep us in your prayers at this difficult time."



Rafa's return

Rafael Benitez is back at Anfield with his Newcastle United team on Saturday 23 April with the Toon desperately fighting to stay in the top flight after a challenging season on Tyneside. The fixture will be Rafa's second return as a manager for a Premier League game since leaving Liverpool in June 2010 – the Champions League-winning Spaniard took charge of Chelsea in his capacity as interim manager for the controversial 2-2 draw at Anfield in April 2013. Since then of course he's been head coach at Napoli and Real Madrid.

Meanwhile Liverpool Ladies continue their FA Women's Super League campaign with two home fixtures in the space of four days towards the end of the month. First, the Reds host Sunderland on Saturday 23 April in a match which should see ex-Reds midfielder Lucy Staniforth return with the Lady Black Cats (5.30pm kick-off). Then on Wednesday 27 April champions Chelsea are in town when they are the opponents at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes (6.30pm).





RUN FOR THE 96

Following last year's inaugural event, the 2016 Run For The 96 5k takes place on Sunday 22 May in Stanley Park. The community legacy fun-run remembers those we lost at Hillsborough, and its two official charities are Liverpool FC Foundation and Everton in the Community. Last year's run was officially started by Margaret Aspinall and supported by Reds fan Melanie Chisholm, former players Alan Kennedy and Graham Stuart, George 'Voice of Anfield' Sephton, and impressionist Darren Farley.

Birthdays and anniversaries

Paul Jones 49 on 18 April
Nathaniel Clyne 25 on 5 April
Brad Smith 22 on 9 April
Steve Finnan 40 on 20 April
Martin Kelly 26 on 27 April
Tommy Smith 71 on 5 April
Dominic Matteo 42 on 28 April
Ian Callaghan 74 on 10 April
Milan Jovanovic 35 on 18 April
Albert Riera 34 on 15 April
Fernando Morientes 40 on 5 April
Robbie Fowler 41 on 9 April
Divock Origi 21 on 18 April

11 years since Champions League victory over Juventus on 5 April
38 years since the Reds reached the European Cup final with a 3-0 second-leg win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on 12 April
28 years since that famous 5-0 win over Nottingham Forest on 13 April
27 years since 96 fans lost their lives at Hillsborough on 15 April
56 years since Ian Callaghan made his LFC debut on 16 April
52 years since a 5-0 defeat of Arsenal secured the Division One title for Bill Shankly's Reds
15 years since Gary Mac's penalty helped Liverpool beat Barcelona in the UEFA Cup semi-final second leg at Anfield on 19 April.
39 years since the Reds reached their first European Cup final on 20 April: the glory that was Rome!

FIXTURE LIST 2015/2016

AUGUST

Sun 9	Stoke City (A)	1-0
Mon 17	AFC Bournemouth (H)	1-0
Mon 24	Arsenal (A)	0-0
Sat 29	West Ham United (H)	0-3

SEPTEMBER

Sat 12	Manchester United (A)	1-3
Thu 17	Bordeaux (A, Europa Lge M1)	1-1
Sun 20	Norwich City (H)	1-1
Wed 23	Carlisle United (H, COC 3) (won 3-2 on penalties)	1-1
Sat 26	Aston Villa (H)	3-2

OCTOBER

Thu 1	FC Sion (H, Europa Lge M2)	1-1
Sun 4	Everton (A)	1-1
Sat 17	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	0-0
Thu 22	Rubin Kazan (H, Europa Lge M3)	1-1
Sun 25	Southampton (H)	1-1
Wed 28	Bournemouth (H, COC 4)	1-0
Sat 31	Chelsea (A)	3-1

NOVEMBER

Thu 5	Rubin Kazan (A, Europa Lge M4)	1-0
Sun 8	Crystal Palace (H)	1-2
Sat 21	Manchester City (A)	4-1
Thu 26	Bordeaux (H, Europa Lge M5)	2-1
Sun 29	Swansea City (H)	1-0

DECEMBER

Wed 2	Southampton (H, COC 5)	6-1
Sun 6	Newcastle United (A)	0-2
Thu 10	FC Sion (A, Europa Lge M6)	0-0
Sun 13	West Brom Albion (H)	2-2
Sun 20	Watford (A)	0-3
Sat 26	Leicester City (H)	1-0
Wed 30	Sunderland (A)	1-0

JANUARY

Sat 2	West Ham United (A)	0-2
Tue 5	Stoke City (A, COC S-F)	1-0
Fri 8	Exeter City (A, FAC 3)	2-2
Wed 13	Arsenal (H)	3-3
Sun 17	Manchester United (H)	0-1
Wed 20	Exeter City (H, FAC 3 replay)	3-0
Sat 23	Norwich City (A)	5-4
Tue 26	Stoke City (H, COC S-F) (won 6-5 on penalties)	0-1
Sat 30	West Ham (H, FAC 4)	0-0

FEBRUARY

Tue 2	Leicester City (A)	0-2
Sat 6	Sunderland (H)	2-2
Tue 9	West Ham United (A, FAC 4 replay)	1-2
Sun 14	Aston Villa (A)	6-0
Thu 18	Augsburg (A, Europa Lge R32)	0-0
Thu 25	Augsburg (H, Europa Lge R32)	1-0
Sun 28	Man City (N, Capital One Cup final) (lost 3-1 on penalties)	1-1

MARCH

Wed 2	Manchester City (H)	3-0
Sun 6	Crystal Palace (A)	2-1
Thu 10	Manchester Utd (H, Europa Lge R32)	2-0
Thu 17	Manchester Utd (H, Europa Lge R32)	1-1
Sun 20	Southampton (A)	2-3

APRIL

Sat 2	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	1-1
Thu 7	Borussia Dortmund (A, Europa L QF, 8.05pm)	
Sun 10	Stoke City (H, 4pm)	
Th 14	Borussia Dortmund (H, Europa L QF, 8.05pm)	
Sat 16	Bournemouth (A, 1.30pm)	
Wed 20	Everton (H, 8pm)	
Sat 23	Newcastle (H, 3pm)	
Sat 30	Swansea City (A, 12.45pm)	

MAY

Sat 7	Watford (H, 3pm)	
Wed 11	Chelsea (H, 8pm)	
Sun 15	West Bromwich Albion (A, 3pm)	
Wed 18	UEFA Europa League final (N, 7.45pm)	





FOOTBALL

Exclusive interviews with five players, late winners, plus the 15th anniversary of Alaves and all that

Mamadou Sakho skippered Liverpool in Bordeaux earlier this season – but who else has worn the captain's armband in 2015/16? Answer on p98



It is the day after Liverpool's 1-1 draw at Old Trafford in the Europa League and the mood at Melwood is naturally buoyant.

Mamadou Sakho sits in the press room, stretching out his long legs while he conducts this interview, just hours after his heroics have helped the Reds defeat their arch-rivals 3-1 on aggregate in the first European meeting between the clubs.

Suddenly the quiet is shaken by the arrival of Jon Flanagan, members of his family and representatives, as the full-back arrives to be photographed signing his new contract. A glint appears in Sakho's eye. "Excuse me one moment," he says as he leaves his seat and surreptitiously strides towards Flanagan attempting to photo-bomb his team-mate as he puts pen to paper. "Flanno! Flanno!" he quips in mock adoration.

The big Frenchman admits that he and Flanagan are two of the jokers in the Reds' pack, components he believes are important in any dressing-room. "It is true he likes to joke and me too. Sometimes we joke around together. I am able to share a laugh with the lads in English and I have tried to learn some Scouse words too!



Work hard and stay strong. Do right by others and let your football do the talking. It's the Mamadou Sakho way


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21

"I was very happy for Flanno to sign his contract because he has done so well to come back from his injury and it is really good for him. I spoke to him many times during his rehab from injury and I could see how hard he was training in the gym. He can be proud of himself and the work that he has done. It is one example of how you can have a bad injury and take a long time to recover, but when you have a big mentality, work hard and do not give up, you can come back to achieve your goals."

While a smile is never far from his face around the environs of Melwood, there is a serious side to Mamadou too. That game against Manchester United was important to him on a personal level as well as the team – a yardstick in helping him achieve one of his own targets.

The centre-back was omitted from the starting line-up when the Reds had made the trip to Old Trafford for the Premier League game back in September – something that had remained etched on his memory.

"The most important thing is always for everyone to give their maximum for the team. But I didn't forget that only a few months earlier I was in the same stadium just sitting in the ground [he was an unused substitute in Liverpool's 1-3 defeat]. That was a choice [of manager Brendan Rodgers] and that is football. But in life I am just as I am in football: when I want something I never leave it and I work hard to achieve it. It is a good story that shows that you must always fight to try to arrive at your objectives."

Sakho conducts this interview in English and quickly plays down

"I fight to give 100 per cent to represent the team and the people"

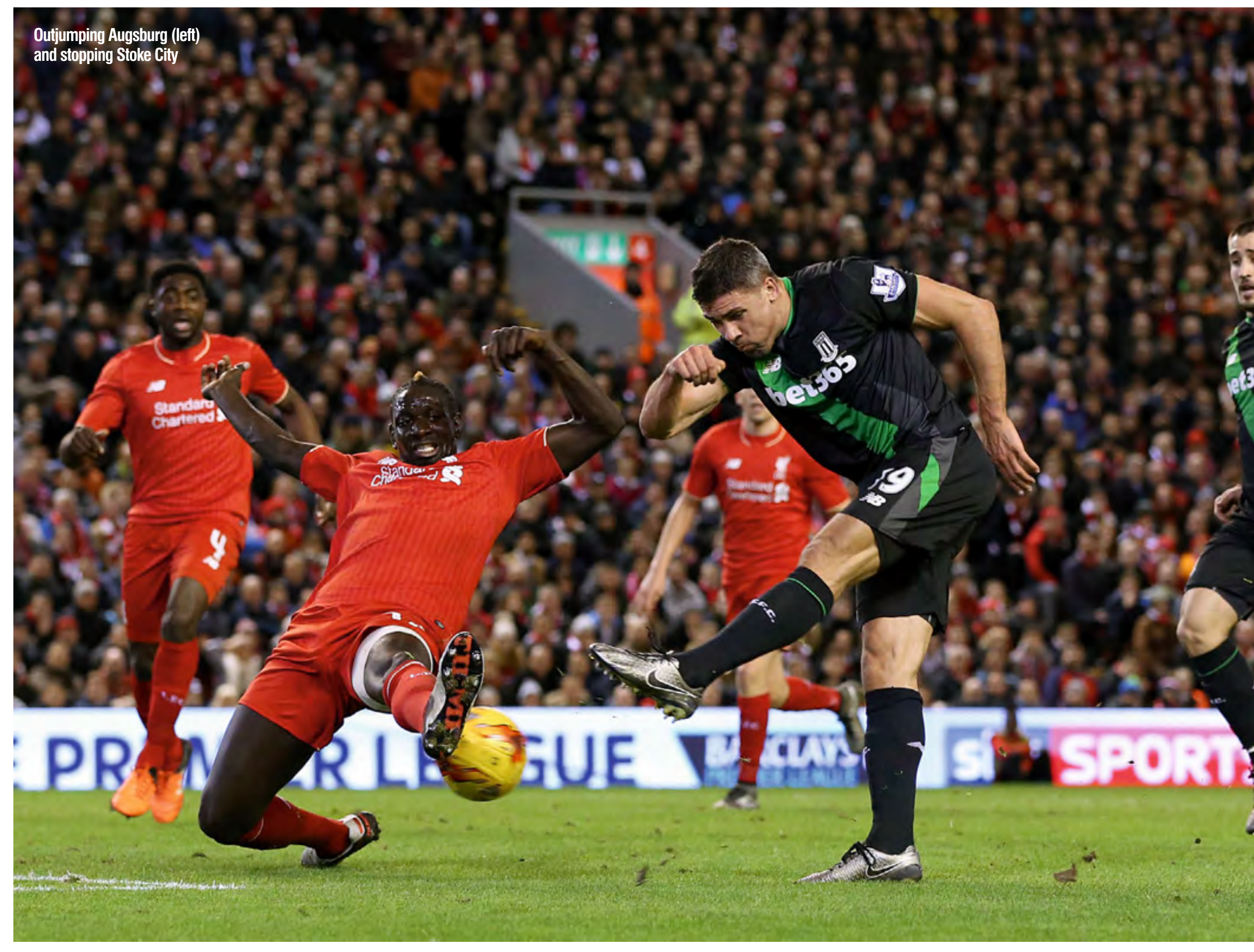
suggestions that his command of the language is very good: "It is alright – it could improve." However, on that subject of fighting to achieve goals he chooses to use the French word *guerrier* – warrior – for emphasis. He fixes this interviewer with his gaze as he asks: "*Guerrier*? You understand this word? I am a fighter."

So good was Sakho's display in Manchester that it is one of five to have been been shortlisted for Liverpool FC's individual performance of the season at next month's annual player awards evening. "I was happy to give my 100 per cent for the squad and for the team," he says. "As I always say, first and foremost, that is the most important thing for me.

"We understand that playing against Manchester United is a big game for the fans and, as players, of course we wanted to win for them and because we wanted to qualify for the next round. I think we played a really good game, like the manager wanted. We showed a very good character and played to our level.

"It is true that we knew that they would push and try to show what they could in their stadium. They scored but I think we left the bad weather behind after we equalised. After that we were really strong and had many opportunities to score further goals on the night. I believe that is a really good sign."

The Reds' reward for the two-legged triumph over the Red Devils in the first European meeting of the traditional rivals was of course a quarter-final match-up with Borussia Dortmund. "It is a good draw for us," says Sakho. "I think they will be good games at a Champions League level. We understand they are one of the



Outjumping Augsburg (left) and stopping Stoke City

tournament favourites and a strong team. We know that it will be tough. But Dortmund will know that too because they will be playing against Liverpool and they will understand it will not be easy against us. Of course, our aim is to continue in this competition and reach the semi-finals. We will see what happens."

The Parisian's combative displays in the heart of the Reds' backline have seen him become a firm favourite on the Kop. He has famously responded to the supporters' regular 'Sakho! Sakho! Sakho!' salute with one of his own. Few foreign players have enjoyed such a bond with the fans and he is naturally pleased to hold such a place in the supporters' affections.

"Of course, I am really happy about that. Sometimes I am a bit shy, though, because when the team comes to say thank you to the fans for their support at the end of games, they single me out and shout my name. I am shy about that but pleased too because I appreciate their support and try to give my best for them.

"I work as hard as possible and try to represent the city and the Scouse people as well as I can. I try to play with my quality and stay true to who I am, and if the supporters identify with that and like it, then I am happy."

A gladiator on the pitch and gentle giant off it, Sakho has become known for his work as an ambassador of Liverpool FC Foundation with regular trips to All Saints Primary School in Anfield. Additionally he is hands-on with the foundation he set up in his own name, AMSAK, which leads a range of initiatives in France, Senegal and the UK. In addressing this work he makes clear that he carries it out as an expression of his personality rather than to be well-thought-of.

"For me it is really important to give back to the kids because they are the future of this world. When I was younger, I never had the chance to have a professional footballer come to speak with me and hopefully pass on some good things. Going into the school to try and spend time with the kids and learn to help teach them French is really important to me.

"I also have my own foundation. I use my own money because I want to help. I don't accept donations. I know what it is like for things to be difficult from when I was younger and it is my personality to try and give something back. I don't need to show that I am a good guy or something like that, I just want to give an example. I live my life how I think is good for me. I know who I am and so I don't need people to say: 'Oh he is a good man'. I don't need people to speak well of me, but I want to give an example and show other people that they can help too. That's it. That is my objective."

"I just try to stay true to who I am and if the fans like it then I'm happy"




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"It's true me and Flanno have a laugh – I've tried to learn Scouse too"

AMSAK's next project will be building a school in Senegal, while Sakho also plans to take some Merseyside youngsters over to the French capital later in the year. "I want to bring some kids from Liverpool to Paris just to open their minds, change their weather, see a bit more and broaden their horizons."

His own sunny disposition was temporarily shaken during the Capital One Cup final when a clash of heads with team-mate Emre Can forced his premature withdrawal from the showdown with Manchester City at Wembley. Every Liverpool fan could identify with his frustration at having to leave his first cup final for the Reds after only 25 minutes. A bottle of water felt his full fury as he hurled it down at the floor on his way to take a seat with the Liverpool substitutes and backroom staff. A tracksuit top was strategically placed over his head for several minutes – a shield to betraying his emotions to the watching world.

"Of course I was really frustrated because I wanted to give my best." he recalls. "That is football and sometimes it works out like that. Now I accept it was the best decision because I couldn't see the ball as there were flashes going on around me and my vision was affected. Because I am a fighter I wanted to stay on. I put water on my head thinking that I would get better but it made no difference. The decision was the best one for the team, but of course in that moment I was frustrated."

There was further heartache as Liverpool lost the final on penalties but Sakho has been pleased with the Reds' response. "We showed a very good character and played to our level when we defeated Manchester City in the league a few days after that final. Then we won at Crystal Palace and came through the Europa League tie against Manchester United with two more good performances. It is also true that the fans have created a really good atmosphere and supported the team really well."

Liverpool started April with nine league games left to play – six of them at Anfield – and the no17 is not about to surrender any ambitions before the final whistle shrills on the 2015/16 Premier League campaign at the Hawthorns on 15 May. "We have two months left and have to focus on trying to take the maximum points from every game and then we will see where we are at the end. We can't think too far ahead and I prefer to stay focused on every game as it comes along.

"In football everything is possible. It is why this Premier League is crazy and why it is so appealing because you never know who will win a game. Every team is ready and every team has a really big mentality. The English league message is this: you can have a lot of quality but teams with a strong mentality and a good tactical awareness can also win games.

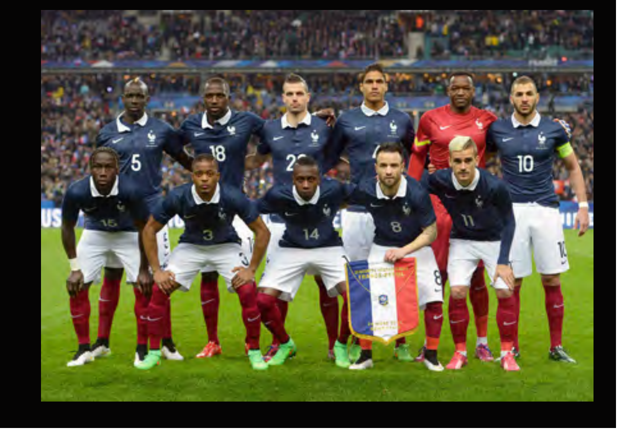
"In football you can speak a lot in the newspapers or magazines but the most important thing is what you do on the pitch. We have to let the results do the talking."

The Red and Les Bleus

Last month Mamadou was on international duty with France as his national team continued their preparations for hosting Euro 2016 this summer. An unused substitute in the 3-2 win away to Holland, he then played the full 90 minutes as Les Bleus thrashed Russia 4-2 at the Stade de France. Fellow Premier League colleagues N'Golo Kante (Leicester City) and Dimitri Payet (West Ham United) found the net in the victory.

The Liverpool central defender admits anticipation is building as the countdown to the tournament starts to gather momentum with France kicking it all off against Romania in Saint-Denis on 10 June. "We are not too far from the European Championships now and I think every player is really excited because it is a really good competition. I am really proud of what I have worked at to help myself improve and become better and I hope it will pay off both with Liverpool and the French squad. I have worked hard on my strength and fitness to try to play to my maximum level for club and country.

"It is always really special to play for your national team, but to do so in a major tournament in your own country will be really special for all the players."



Words: William Hughes



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Team-mates celebrate with Christian Benteke after he tucks away his last-gasp pen at Palace

Typical: you wait nearly four months for your team's first penalty of the season (in open play) and then three come along in quick succession.

In the last week of November 2015, after 19 previous fixtures in all competitions, Liverpool were awarded their first spot-kicks of 2014/15: at home to first Bordeaux in the Europa League group stage; then Swansea City in the Barclays Premier League. Midfielder and stand-in skipper James Milner duly despatched both.

In February he scored Liverpool's third of the season, this time the all-important early opener against Augsburg in the second leg of the Europa League Round of 32 tie.

Ten days later it was Christian Benteke's turn to send Reds fans into raptures, sending Crystal Palace keeper Alex McCarthy the wrong way at the very end of the game. And four days after that, up stepped Daniel Sturridge in the Anfield cauldron to beat Manchester United's David de Gea from the spot, this time in the first leg of the Europa League's last 16 tie.

Daniel Sturridge versus David de Gea: Anfield is about to erupt

Like Benteke before him, Sturridge paused before picking his spot. Former defender and LFC TV pundit Gary Gillespie described it as "cool, calm and hit with authority" but admitted he could hardly bear to watch Benteke's 94th-minute winner. "He showed plenty of bottle. I'm not a big fan of the staggered run-up, but if you can do it that well, then fair play."

Was the Belgian striker nervous? If so, it didn't show. "When the referee pointed to the spot, straightaway I said I'd take the responsibility. In my mind I was sure I was going to score."




1970
WHL '71
1971
1979
Arsenal
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Dirk at work

A 112th minute opportunity to put Liverpool level from the spot? No pressure… In normal play ice-cool Dirk Kuyt converted eight penalties for the Reds, including three against Mersey rivals Everton in two games either side of Stanley Park: two at Goodison in a 2-1 win in October 2007 and one at Anfield in a 2-2 draw in January 2011. He also missed one at Goodison in October 2011, but Liverpool won 2-0.

His finest moment from 12 yards (not counting shoot-outs against Chelsea in the 2007 Champions League semis and Cardiff City in the 2012 Carling Cup final) has to be that late, late equaliser at the Emirates on Sunday 17 April 2011. With the game goalless going into the eighth minute of stoppage-time Robin van Persie put the Gunners ahead with a penalty… only for his unflappable compatriot to do the same four minutes later up the other end! No wonder goalkeeper Pepe Reina sprinted 100 yards to celebrate with Kuyt, his team-mates and Liverpool's travelling fans.





Steven Gerrard puts his side ahead at Old Trafford in March 2009

Gerrard...scores

Those opposing supporters who take great delight in singing about Steven Gerrard conveniently forget that it was his successful penalties in the second half of season 2013/14 that helped put Liverpool within touching distance of the Premier League crown: eight conversions between 12 January and 6 April, three of which make our top five Gerrard pens of all time in an impromptu magazine straw-poll.

At number five we've gone for the first of his two successful penalties in the 3-0 win at Manchester United on 16 March 2014. It was his 12th consecutive conversion from the spot although he did hit the post with a third that memorable lunchtime. At no4 it's the second of his two pens at West Ham on 6 April 2014 that kept the title-chasing momentum going, and at no3 the spot-kick swept past Manchester City's Joe Hart at the Etihad, after a bit of pre-kick banter with his England team-mate, in the Carling Cup semi-final first leg of 11 January 2012

(of course he also scored from the spot in the second leg at Anfield).

Second for us is Steven's penalty in the 4-1 win at Old Trafford on 14 March 2009, celebrated with the Sky Sports camera-kiss. And at no1: his 95th minute winner in the howling wind at Fulham on Wednesday 12 February 2014 that sent the travelling Reds wild and had Kopites bouncing off the walls at home and in the pubs.

No one has scored more penalties for Liverpool than Gerrard, his 47 successful conversions five more than previous record-holder Jan Molby. Of that total, the most came against Aston Villa (five) followed by United and Spurs (four each).





Get your Phil

Third behind Steven Gerrard and Jan Molby in Liverpool FC's list of all-time successful penalty-takers is former skipper Phil Neal, whose record of 38 conversions stood for eight years before the Dane finally overtook him.

Ironically Molby's first-ever spot-kick for Liverpool, against Spurs on 28 September 1985, came just 21 days after Neal's last LFC penalty, against Watford on 7 September that same year. And, slightly spookily, in the same game that Neal scored his 35th penalty for Liverpool to surpass Billy Liddell's previous club record of 34 – against Norwich City on 25 August 1984 – young Molby actually made his LFC debut!

Time and again in the 1970s and 80s full-back Phil stepped up when it mattered, at Anfield or elsewhere, to coolly despatch ball past goalkeeper. His most important penalty? There have been a few special ones by Liverpool players in Europe: Gary Mac v Barcelona in 2001, King Kev v Bruges in 1976 and Barney Rubble v Roma in the 1984 shoot-out. But arguably Neal's spot-kick v Borussia Moenchengladbach in 1977 to win that first European Cup comes top.

"As I ran up to the ball I then did something I never did and which you should never do – I changed my mind," he's since revealed.

"Instead I hit it low to the other side of the keeper [Wolfgang Kneib] but it went in and up came Ian Callaghan in delight. I still get a tingle when I see the videos of Bob Paisley and Ronnie Moran leaping up off the bench with joy."



Time and again Neal stepped up when it mattered at Anfield or elsewhere



How to take them

The secret of spot-kick success? Know your goalies, stay cool, and enjoy it. So says Jan Molby, who with 42 conversions from 45 kicks had a success-rate of 93.33 per cent from the penalty spot.

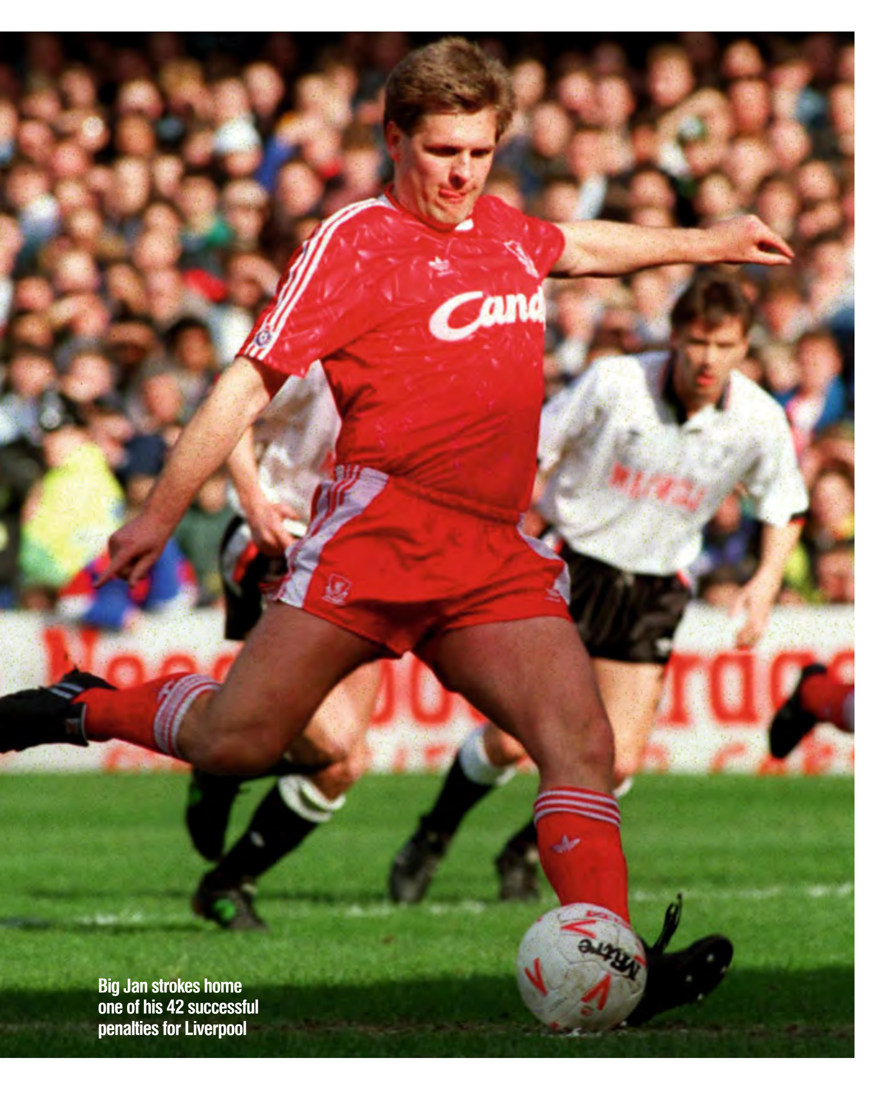
"Over the years you'd gain a knowledge of goalkeepers," recalls the former Reds midfielder. "Peter Shilton, for example, would never move before you'd hit the ball – he wouldn't give you the pleasure of sending him the wrong way. But I always put it in the same place: it hit the back of the net, then Shilton dived, but never the wrong way.

"These days there's more video analysis but I'll guarantee that won't bother the really good penalty-takers. You could have all the information you wanted about me, but it's still about that moment and I'd always back myself. The biggest thing is whether you can handle the pressure. Screaming crowds and match situations can't be replicated. You can practise and make people more confident of being able to hit the target in a certain place, but the moment you walk up to take the kick, all that changes. I genuinely believe that you're either born to take penalties or you're not. You must enjoy the responsibility and that gamer of cat-and-mouse with the keeper."

Mag columnist Dietmar Hamann insists it's about being sticking to your plan. Aside from one miss v TNS in 2005, Didi only took three pens for Liverpool, all in cup final shoot-outs: a miss v Birmingham in the 2001 League Cup and conversions against Milan in the 2005 Champions League and West Ham in the 2006 FA Cup.

"The fact that I'd missed in the League Cup final didn't enter my head four years later in Istanbul. Rafael Benitez asked if I wanted to take one and I nodded. From that moment on I wasn't aware of what was happening around me. I was, as they say, in the zone – completely focused on my job. Rafa came around again and told me I'd be going first. Because I was so focused I didn't know who was next. I was like a supporter looking to see who was stepping up each time.

"Regardless of which penalty you're taking, I always felt the most important thing was to commit. I never thought: I just need to hit the target. Instead I decided where I was going to hit the ball and went for it. If you do it properly there is every chance of scoring a goal that helps your club to victory."



Big Jan strokes home one of his 42 successful penalties for Liverpool



"The most important thing is to commit – decide where it's going"



It's 15 years since Liverpool were involved in one of the most dramatic European finals of all time – ring any bells?

DORTMU

Imagine Istanbul 2005 had been different. Imagine the Reds had beaten AC Milan 1-0 with a deflected own-goal. It would've still been, perhaps, the night of your life. Liverpool would've still had a fifth European Cup for keeps. Tales of kebabs, Efes, Rafa being the Bosphorus, a stadium on a lunar landscape and a crazy homecoming would still have been regaled. But it wouldn't have been quite the same.

Liverpool came back from 3-0 down at half-time in a stunning six-minute spell. Jerzy Dudek made a double-save in extra-time and denied Shevchenko again during the shoot-out. Because of the circumstances, it's regarded as the greatest European final since Real Madrid beat Frankfurt 7-3 at Hampden Park in 1960.

Yet that neglects what was arguably an even crazier night in Dortmund on 16 May 2001.

The UEFA Cup is the Robert Kennedy of silverware: prominent, but in the shadow of a bigger brother. Irrespective of arguments over prestige, however, it remains one of only two European trophies which can be won, and in 2001 it was Gerard Houllier's Liverpool that landed the big silver vase after what can be only described as a stark-raving-bonkers 117 minutes of football.

For it to complete a treble of trophies made what 40,000 travelling Kopites had just witnessed in Dortmund's Westfalenstadion all the more surreal. Fifteen years on, it's still one of those nights that you've probably not quite got your head around…

We're all off to Germany…

"Tell me Ma, me Ma, I don't want no tea no tea, we're going to Germany, tell me Ma, me Ma," had rung around Cardiff's Millennium Stadium four days earlier. Houllier's side, having already clinched the League Cup after a penalty shoot-out victory against Birmingham City, had been back to 'Anfield South Wales' for the FA Cup final. One-nil down, two-one up, Michael Owen won the cup.

From there, some Kopites continued on their way to Dortmund, fully believing the Redmen would be lifting the UEFA Cup on the Wednesday night. Confidence was rife not just because of the roll the Reds were on and the fact Barcelona had been defeated in the semi-final, but also the

ND 2001

identity of our opponents.

Alaves, a small Spanish club from the Basque country, were playing in their first-ever season in European competition. Thanks to their breathtaking attacking style of football, they went all the way to the final, beating Inter Milan in the San Siro and destroying Kaiserslautern 9-2 on aggregate in the semi-final along the way. To put their achievement in context, los Babazorros – which translates as 'the Potato Aphids' for reasons we don't have the space to go into – were playing fourth-tier football 11 years earlier and had so few official members that they could print all of their names on a match jersey especially commissioned for the final.

Liverpool, meanwhile, had made it back to a European final for the first time since the 1985 Heysel disaster and could win a tournament record-equalling third UEFA Cup. It was the have-wons against the have-nots. The Reds were undeniably favourites.

Kopites arrived in Dortmund via every route imaginable. They partied in the city's main square (Zum Alten Market) the night before – an evening when the 'Gary Macca, Gary, Gary Macca' hoedown truly took off – and the following day the square was a sea of red. A live music stage featured Cast and Pete Wylie, former Reds striker Erik Meijer turned up wearing his actual Liverpool shirt with name and number on the back and, despite a biblical lunchtime downpour, a group of Reds took on the German riot police in an impromptu game of footie (the hosts probably won on pens).

Alaves only had 6,000 or so fans with them, many of them packed inside a tent listening to dance tunes from a Spanish DJ, and as the Westfalenstadion began to fill up it quickly became clear that Dortmund's famous Yellow Wall had been painted red. *You'll Never Walk Alone* has echoed around that arena many times, but it was so spine-tingling before kick-off that the Alaves supporters simply stood and applauded.

With other songs such as 'Hou let the Reds out' getting an airing and countless Kop banners draped from both the Nord and Sudtribune – an estimated 40,000 Reds made it the club's largest ever European following abroad – it felt like Anfield had been airlifted to Germany. What followed, however, was scarcely believable.



Gerrard and Fowler celebrate the winner

The winners

The travelling Kop

Eight goals in 88 enthralling minutes

Liverpool defenders have a happy knack of scoring in European finals. Larry Lloyd in 1973. Tommy Smith and Phil Neal in 1977. Alan Kennedy in 1981. Neal again in 1984. In 2001 it was Markus Babbel.

Forward from right-back for a Gary McAllister free-kick, the German headed the Reds in front with just vier minuten on the clock. When a shaven-headed 20-year-old Steven Gerrard burst into the penalty area 11 minutes later to thump a Michael Owen pass into the Alaves net the treble looked done and dusted.

As 'We shall not, we shall not be moved' boomed around the Westfalenstadion, the Basques looked shell-shocked. But a 22nd minute substitution by Alaves coach Mane (Jose Manuel Esnal) – striker Ivan Alonso on for defender Dan Eggen – put a cat among the Liver Birds. Alaves switched from 3-5-2 to 4-4-2 and Alonso scored just four minutes later, heading in right-back Cosmin Contra's cross. Two-one.

Suddenly it was the Potato Aphids looking chipper. Their attacking flair came to the fore as they flew forward. Liverpool goalkeeper Sander Westerveld was forced to make a couple of important saves. Babbel produced a goal-saving tackle. An equaliser seemed likely until Didi Hamann sent Owen scurrying through only for Alaves keeper Martin Herrera to haul him down in the box.



He let the Reds out



We did it!

Penalty! But no red card. Herrera escaped with just a yellow, but soon found himself picking the ball out of his net, Gary Macca making no mistake from the spot. Three-one. Surely that would be enough to swat the men in blue-and-yellow away? If only.

The dangerous Javi Moreno was giving Stephane Henchoz the runaround. It took him six second-half minutes to score twice, heading another Contra cross home and then somehow firing a free-kick through the Liverpool wall. Three-three! Now it was time for Houllier to respond.

Henchoz was replaced by Vladimir Smicer with Gerrard switched to right-back – something similar would end up happening four years later in Istanbul, you might recall – before Robbie Fowler was brought on for fellow striker Emile Heskey. Much to the astonishment of everyone, Moreno was hauled off moments later for Pablo Gomez. It changed the game.

With 72 minutes on the clock Fowler latched on to a McAllister pass, cut inside from the left, shimmied past a defender and coolly slotted the ball in the net with his right foot. Four-three.

A divine winner from 'God'? Not quite. Jordi Cruyff, son of Johan who was due to present the UEFA Cup to the winning captain that night, rose highest from an 88th-minute corner to head the ball past Westerveld. Four-four. Could this game get any more ridiculous? Absolutely.

Golden goal and silver-ware

UEFA had introduced an extra-time 'golden goal' ruling meaning that, for the first time, Liverpool were playing 'next-goal-wins' football. Which made it quite a relief when a linesman's flag went up for offside after Ivan Alonso put the ball into Westerveld's net in the 94th minute. One big 'phew' went around the ground.


What a venue



liverpool 5 alaves 4

Brave Alaves in despair



Podium party

Steven's first European trophy

YNWA

Alaves, though, were beginning to tread water. Brazilian substitute Magno was dismissed in the 98th minute for a second bookable offence. Fowler had a 104th minute goal chalked off for offside. And then, with five minutes to play, the Basques were down to nine men with skipper Antonio Karmona sent for a (not so) early bath for a cynical foul on Smicer.

McAllister stepped up to curl in the resultant free-kick from a wide position on the left, and Herrera came to punch it clear. Before he could, full-back Delfi Geli, a 1996 double-winner with Atletico Madrid who is now the president of Spanish second-tier club Girona, rose in front of him and glanced the ball into the top corner to score a golden own-goal. Five-four. Game over. Treble won. And McAllister was mobbed by his team-mates.

The man-of-the-match award went to the wily 36-year-old midfielder. He donated the prize-money to two cancer charities, Christie's in Manchester and the MacMillan Trust, as his late wife Denise had been treated earlier that year. She was in remission at the time and was able to be in Germany that night.

Sami Hyypia, who'd led the team out, and club vice-skipper Fowler lifted the trophy together (club captain Jamie Redknapp was injured) to spark wild celebrations in the stands that included Alan Hansen running out of the BBC studio in his suit and shaking his fists with joy just as soon as he'd gone off-air. Perhaps the most memorable moment of a mad night, though, was the sight of the entire Liverpool team and coaching staff linking arms on the pitch and singing *You'll Never Walk Alone* in tandem with 40,000 travelling Kopites.

Not only had the Reds become the first and only English club to win three UEFA Cups, that triumph in Dortmund put them back on the European map following a number of underwhelming continental campaigns in the post-Heysel period.

Five of the side on the night – Jamie Carragher, Hyypia, Gerrard, Hamann and Smicer – would go on to be part of the Champions League-winning team four years later, while the treble of UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup remains a unique achievement. One to be proud of.

Four years later Istanbul 2005 may have usurped Dortmund 2001 – the same thing happened with Moenchengladbach 73 and Bruges 76 after our 1977 European Cup success in Rome. But those who were in the Westfalenstadion will never forget, nor probably make sense of, the greatest, craziest UEFA Cup final of them all.

In their own words

Gerard Houllier: "To me it was the atmosphere that was fantastic. That game is special to me because of the harmony between the fans, the player and the staff that night."

Robbie Fowler: "It probably rates as the strangest game I've played in professionally. I thought my goal was going to be the winner – but so did everyone else, didn't they?"

Steven Gerrard: "Alaves were a good team. We knew they'd come at us and that, even at 2-0, we had to keep going. So many of our fans had come all that way to support us. We had to do it for them."

Alan Hansen: "Gary McAllister was outstanding. At 36, to keep going the way he did, keep taking those free-kicks and producing it when it counted, was sensational. He fully deserved his man-of-the-match award."

Alaves coach Mane: "Dortmund has seen a great final and it was possibly the smallest team in the competition that made it great. We played with pride and class to get the score back to 4-4 at the end of normal-time. The result of that, however, was that we were half-dead going into extra-time."



Words: Chris McLoughlin



1-0
Babbel heads in from free-kick



2-0
Gerrard fires hard and low



3-2
Moreno's headed past Westerveld



4-4
Cruyff header from corner



2-1
Alonso rises highest to score



3-1
Macca pen after Owen fouled



3-3
And Moreno's free-kick equalises



4-3
Fowler scores with right foot

5-4
Geli heads into his own net!



CLYNE EVERY MOUNTAIN

The England full-back on praise from a legend, playing under pressure and the perfect end to the season

Jamie Carragher knew a thing or two about the standards required of a Liverpool defender. The full-back-turned-centre-back lined-up 737 times in a distinguished LFC career spanning 16-and-a-half years. So when the stalwart former vice-captain singled out Nathaniel Clyne as the Reds' most consistent player this season, it was anything but faint praise.

Speaking ahead of the Europa League second leg against Manchester United at Old Trafford, Carra said: "Roberto Firmino has really impressed in the last couple of months and Adam Lallana had his two best performances in games against United and City recently. For an unsung hero, though, Nathaniel Clyne has been Liverpool's most consistent player."

Clyne is naturally pleased to hear such comments. Relaxing after afternoon training at Melwood, he tells the magazine: "If a legend like Carragher is saying things like that, it means that I am doing things well and that's something I want to continue with. I strive to be consistent and that's my game, really: going into games to do well and getting those seven out of 10s week in, week out. That's what I aim for and that's what makes me happy.

"It was a step-up for me coming to Liverpool because when you play for a team like this you are expected to win every single game. There are a lot of teams that come to Liverpool and play their hearts out because they want to do well against the big teams. That makes it tougher for us, but it means we've got to be on our game even though most of the time we have three matches in a week. We've got to handle that and be at our level. That's what makes us better players and that's what makes us big players. I'm enjoying every minute of it."

Asked for his own assessment of his debut season at Anfield, the




Standard
Chartered



On England duty recently

affable full-back admits to having been pleased with the progress he has made thus far. "You're never quite sure how it will go when you make a step-up and that level of expectation means it was a big step from Southampton. I'm happy with my career so far at Liverpool. I've settled in and blended into the team well. I've played a lot of games too and have generally been pleased with my performances. I also believe I'm improving and getting better and better."

The return to fitness of Jon Flanagan saw the Londoner figure at left-back on a couple of occasions during March and he believes that will aid his continued development. "It's always nice to see a team-mate come back from a big injury and Flanno's settled in so well that it's almost as if he hasn't been away," he says. "It's good to have competition as the team usually benefits when there are players fighting for positions. I think it's a very healthy situation.

"Playing at left-back isn't too different. I think full-back is full-back really. It just means you have to work on your weaker foot more which is good for me because if you can use both feet it will help you. I'm sure that if I play more games at left-back, I will improve as a player. That's the way I look at it."

Clyne turned 25 at the start of this month and is looking forward to the final weeks of the season with plenty of big matches to come. He is hoping to sample his first taste of an Anfield derby when Everton pay a visit in mid-April while there is also the small matter of those Europa League games with Borussia Dortmund.

"I'm happy with my form for Liverpool and I think I'm getting better"

"I'm always excited to play against big teams in big matches and big occasions. You dream of playing in matches like these where everyone will be watching and it will be special.

"In the case of the Europa League it is a good reward for the way we played in both matches against Manchester United. Over the two legs I felt we were definitely the better side, especially in the first leg at home. We were very good in winning 2-0 and not conceding the away-goal was always important as it meant they had a big task ahead of them going into the second match.

"We played counter-attack football at Old Trafford and I think we created more chances than them and probably could have scored more goals. In the end we were happy with the 1-1 draw to move forward into the next games in the quarter-finals.

"I think it's a good draw. If you want to win a competition like that you're going to come up against the big sides and you've got to knock them out, and having done that with United we're now looking to do the same against a tough opponent like Dortmund and hopefully we can progress to the next round over the two legs."

The England defender acknowledges that players naturally raise their games when performing in front of capacity crowds and partisan atmospheres. For that reason, a forthcoming schedule containing that Dortmund double and derby date with Everton ahead of Rafael Benitez's return with Newcastle have had anticipation levels building.

"When you play in front of good atmospheres it encourages you to play even better," he explains. "When the fans are making plenty of noise and enjoying the game it also makes the players enjoy it and want to do well.

"There are a lot of big matches coming up and it's great to go into the final couple of months with plenty to play for. We have a big squad with a lot of quality so we are able to cope with the demands of the schedule. The aim is to take as many points out of the games as possible and push on even further in the Europa League."

This summer Nathaniel hopes to have his first experience playing for England at a major international tournament as the Three Lions chase success at Euro 2016 in France. The full-back ended March by linking up with Roy Hodgson's squad for the friendlies against Germany – providing an assist for Jamie Vary's impudent goal in the 3-2 victory – and Holland. While he is naturally hopeful of making the cut for Hodgson's final 23-man squad, he says it's all about Liverpool until the final whistle is blown on the domestic season.

"It's still a case of focusing on club football at the moment," he says. "There is still top-four up for grabs





"When the fans are making a noise it makes you want to do do well"

and also the Europa League that we're looking to progress in. The Euros are at the back of your mind but I'm sure when the season is finished we'll be focused on what is ahead of us this summer. Before that, there are a lot of important matches coming up for Liverpool."

The 2-3 defeat to Southampton at St Mary's last month was only the Reds' second reversal in seven league games since mid-January 2016. Many media pundits have attributed that to the greater fitness levels among the squad now that they have had several months working with Jürgen Klopp and becoming assimilated to his way of working. Clyne believes there is certainly something to such theories.

"We're definitely really fit as a squad now and the training has helped towards that with the intensity that is demanded of us.

"Generally speaking, we are finishing games stronger and coming into the last few minutes of the games. We are still running forward and probably making the most runs out of the majority of teams. We need that high press and high fitness if we want to win games. It's a 90-minute match and you've got to play right to the end.

"Everyone has bought into his style of play and how he wants us to go about things and you can see that what we are working hard on in training is taking effect in the matches and we're looking good."

Against LFC old boy Raheem Sterling

A couple of months ago, Clyne suffered the disappointment of seeing the Reds just fall short in the Capital One Cup final against Manchester City as he came within a whisker of winning the first major medal of his career. Despite that disappointment, he believes the Reds showed great character to respond to that defeat by completing a league double over City just three days later at Anfield and then winning a tough fixture at Crystal Palace prior to seeing off Manchester United in that much-heralded Europa League double-header.

"It was really disappointing that we couldn't win the cup and losing on penalties is always hard to stomach but we bounced back well. We beat City again in the league and showed that we could go back-to-back games in the league after wining at Palace and then get through in the Europa League too. The defeat at Southampton was a setback but overall we've been on a good run of form, and if we can continue that good form for the rest of the season I'm sure we will be rewarded.

"If you look at this Premier League season, it has been full of surprises with a lot of shocks. There have been many instances of the smaller clubs beating the bigger ones so you don't know what to expect.

"But that just means that you have to just keep pushing on until the very last game."

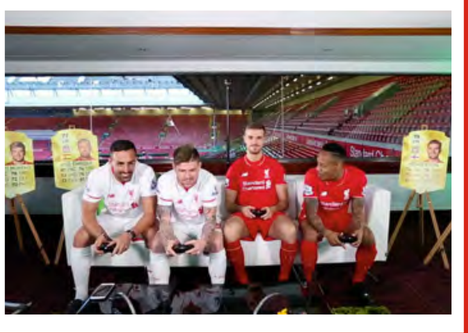
REMATCH! REMATCH! REMATCH!

In last month's edition we reported how Nathaniel and Reds skipper Jordan Henderson had been beaten by Spanish duo Alberto Moreno and Jose Enrique in a football gaming simulation. The England duo's 1-0 defeat came in the latest edition of FIFA 16 Player Tournaments – held with EA Sports, the Reds' official football video gaming partner. Enrique was quick to lord it over his English team-mates although Nathaniel has revealed the Spanish duo aren't too keen on a re-run: "They were giving us a bit of stick a few days after the actual game but it's gone a bit quiet since. We've been trying to arrange a re-match but I don't think they fancy it! I would certainly be up for it and I enjoy playing, but I think I play better by myself rather than in doubles!"









Words: William Hughes


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THE LATE SHOW

LIVERPOOL HAVE SCORED 28 PREMIER LEAGUE WINNERS IN THE 90TH MINUTE OR LATER – MORE THAN ANY OTHER CLUB



90+6 CHRISTIAN BENTEKE v Crystal Palace (A) 6 March 2016 won 2-1
The big Belgian stepped up to convert a cool penalty with virtually the last kick of the game after he had been fouled by Palace centre-back Damien Delaney. It completed a fine fightback for the 10-man Reds after Roberto Firmino had earlier cancelled out Joe Ledley's opener and James Milner had been dismissed for a second bookable offence.

90+5 ADAM LALLANA v Norwich City(A) 23 Jan 2016 won 5-4
Jürgen Klopp had his glasses broken by his celebrating Reds as Adam Lallana's late, late show gave the Reds an astonishing 5-4 victory at Carrow Road. Having trailed 3-1, Liverpool looked to have won it when James Milner made it 4-3 with 16 minutes left. Sebastien Bassong scored from a stoppage-time set-piece to snatch what looked like a point for the Canaries but the Reds responded by going straight onto the attack and in the penalty box melee that followed, Lallana struck a loose ball into the ground and over home goalkeeper Declan Rudd to tee up the exuberant celebrations.

90+5 STEVEN CAULKER (og) v QPR (A) 19 Oct 2014 won 3-2
Three of this game's five goals came on the 90th-minute mark or later. Eduardo Vargas seemed to have claimed a point for the hosts when he cancelled out Richard Dunne's own-goal with three minutes left. Philippe Coutinho then appeared to have won it with a 90th-minute effort only for Vargas to level again. Just as the Reds were rueing two points that had got away, Raheem Sterling tried to pick out Mario Balotelli with a low cross and future Liverpool loanee Steven Caulker diverted the ball past keeper Robert Green to seal victory for Brendan Rodgers' side. One wonders what ex-LFC boss Roy Hodgson made of it when he tuned into *Match of the Day 2* that night – he had been at Loftus Road on a watching brief in his role as England manager but left early and missed four of the goals!



90+1 ANDY CARROLL v Blackburn Rovers (A) 10 April 2012 won 3-2
A dramatic fixture at Ewood Park saw the Reds win it at the end in an incident-packed affair. Two early goals from Maxi Rodriguez had put the visitors in command but then stand-in keeper Doni was sent off for a foul on Junior Hoillett. Brad Jones saved the resulting spot-kick from Yakubu but the ex-Everton striker pulled a goal back before converting a second penalty after being fouled by Jones. The game still had one last twist with Liverpool's record signing Andy Carroll heading home the winner in stoppage-time.

90+1 STEVEN GERRARD v Fulham (A) 12 Feb 2014 won 3-2
As celebrated earlier in this issue the skipper converted a last-gasp penalty to give the Reds a vital three points in their pursuit of the title. Daniel Sturridge had scored for an eighth consecutive match to equal a club-record to cancel out an unfortunate Kolo Toure own-goal before Philippe Coutinho equalised Kieran Richardson's strike. But with time ticking away Sascha Riether fouled Sturridge inside the area



and Gerrard tucked away the spot-kick before celebrating by whirling his shirt around his head.

90+2 JOE COLE v Bolton Wanderers (H) 1 Jan 2011 won 2-1
Joe Cole scored five goals for Liverpool and this one helped lift some of the gloom gathering around Anfield. With almost 10,000 empty seats inside Anfield, the frustrations of Roy Hodgson's tenure were coming to the boil. Kevin Davies gave Bolton a first-half lead but Torres' fine volley brought Liverpool level. Cole won it from Torres' cross, saying afterwards: "I was stood right by the goal and just got my studs on it. I was lucky to be in the right place at the right time and it was even better for me because it was right in front of the Kop."

90+3 FERNANDO TORRES v Aston Villa (A) 29 Dec 2009 won 1-0
Torres became the fastest Liverpool player to 50 league goals as the team left it late to snatch all three points at an ice-cold Villa Park. Yossi Benayoun was tackled by Gabriel Agbonlahor, but the challenge served only to play Torres in on goal and the Spaniard clinically dispatched his shot beyond Brad Friedel to reach his half-century of Premier League goals in only his 72nd outing.

90+2 YOSSI BENAYOUN v Fulham (A) 4 April 2009 won 1-0
In a game that had seen Andrea Dossena, Xabi Alonso and Fernando Torres hit the woodwork, Yossi Benayoun came up trumps on the banks of the Thames. The Israeli found enough space to turn and shoot beyond Mark Schwarzer and have the travelling Kop singing: "We're going to win the league." The win took LFC two points clear of Manchester United at the top of the table, albeit having played two games more.

90+1 FERNANDO TORRES v Portsmouth (A) 7 Feb 2009 won 3-2
'El Nino' completed a rousing Reds fightback in a game that sparked in the final half-hour. Pompey led on two occasions with David Nugent and Hermann Hreidarsson the goalscorers, only for a Fabio Aurelio free-kick and a close-range finish from Dirk Kuyt to drag the Reds level. And Rafael Benitez's men continued their title quest when Fernando Torres headed in the stoppage-time winner to the delight of the 3,000 travelling Reds following fine build-up play by team-mate Yossi Benayoun.

90+2 DIRK KUYT v Manchester City (A) 5 Oct 2008 won 3-2
Two-nil down, three-two up. When Stephen Ireland and Javier Garrido scored for the hosts in the opening half of this fixture at the City of Manchester Stadium, Mark Hughes' City seemed set for victory. But two goals from Fernando Torres left everything to play with going into the final 18 minutes and it was the Reds who snatched a winner to send the travelling Kop bouncing with joy as Dirk Kuyt made no mistake after Torres' deflected shot fell into his path.





90+4 STEVEN GERRARD v Middlesbrough (H) 23 Aug 2008 won 2-1
The Liverpool double-act of Jamie Carragher and Steven Gerrard turned this game on its head in the final five minutes after Mido's fine effort took Middlesbrough close to victory. Carragher's fifth Liverpool goal – via a deflection off Emanuel Pogatetz – levelled matters before the Reds captain fired home the winner from outside the box just in the nick of time. "When we are playing at Anfield and attacking the Kop, all that put together gives you the belief you can win," explained Carragher afterwards.

90 STEVEN GERRARD v Derby County (A) 26 Dec 2007 won 2-1
A fortuitous winner after Fernando Torres' opener had been cancelled out by Jay McEveley. The captain, who'd hit the crossbar moments earlier, was rewarded for his persistence when Yossi Benayoun crossed for Torres who forced a reaction-save from Lewis Price, Derby's debutant goalkeeper. Yet as Price attempted to collect the loose ball, McEveley swung a boot at it in an attempt to clear. He succeeded only in hitting the Reds skipper who had continued his run into the six-yard box, and the ball cannoned back off him and into the net.




INCE
8
RAE
4
CARRAGHER
23
NAYLOR

90+2 DIRK KUYT v Everton (A) 20 Oct 2007 won 2-1
You can't beat a last-gasp derby winner and Dirk Kuyt showed nerves of steel to slot home the penalty after an incident-packed encounter at Goodison Park. Sami Hyypia's own-goal had given the Blues a half-time lead but the Reds equalised through a Kuyt pen after Tony Hibbert was sent-off for fouling Steven Gerrard. On his first Prem appearance substitute Lucas fired in a late shot which was saved by the hands of Everton defender Phil Neville, who also received his marching orders for his intervention. Kuyt calmly dispatched his kick past Tim Howard to settle the outcome.

90+2 NEIL MELLOR v Arsenal (H) 28 Nov 2004 won 2-1
Mellor's star at Anfield was rising and a late winner against reigning champions Arsenal only helped. Xabi Alonso had put the Reds ahead but an Arsenal side including Kolo Toure levelled through Patrick Vieira. However the Reds won it with a fantastic strike from Mellor who rifled his shot past Jens Lehmann to the delight of the Kop.

90 MILAN BAROS v Crystal Palace (H) 13 Nov 2004 won 3-2
Rafael Benitez was in charge of Liverpool by the time Milan Baros played a starring role in this dramatic defeat of Crystal Palace. In a five-goal thriller, the Czech Republic forward put the Reds ahead from the spot only for Joonas Kolkka to produce a brilliant equaliser for the Eagles. Baros restored Liverpool's lead just before the break, converting Harry Kewell's cross after a sublime pass from Xabi Alonso. Michael Hughes's header restored parity after the break and Palace were poised for a point till centre-back Tony Popovic tripped Baros in the closing stages. The forward dusted himself down to complete his hat-trick by beating keeper Gabor Kiraly from 12 yards for the second time that afternoon.



Neil Mellor: what a strike

90+1 SAMI HYYPIA v Wolves (H) 20 March 2004 won 1-0
Sami Hyypia rose to head home the match-winner from a Gerrard corner and give the Reds maximum points just as it looked like Dave Jones' men would return home with a point.

90 STEVEN GERRARD v Charlton Athletic (H) 21 April 2003 won 2-1
With four minutes remaining, Alan Curbishley's Charlton led at Anfield courtesy of a goal early in the second half from Shaun Bartlett. Liverpool levelled late on when Steven Gerrard flicked on a John Arne Riise corner and Sami Hyypia stabbed the ball beyond keeper Dean Kiely. Then in the final seconds Gerrard burst into the area and skipped between two tackles before lashing into the bottom corner.

90 MICHAEL OWEN v Chelsea (H) 6 Oct 2002 won 1-0
For the second successive season Chelsea fell to a last-minute Liverpool winner at Anfield. This time Michael Owen was the match-winner. Emile Heskey's powerful left-footed attempt was pushed onto a post by Chelsea keeper Carlo Cudicini and Owen netted the rebound. "It was a striker's goal," he reflected afterwards. "That's what my dad always used to call it. I follow every ball in."

90+1 VLADIMIR SMICER v Chelsea (H) 24 March 2002 won 1-0
A well-executed volley from Vladi sent Liverpool top of the table as thoughts turned excitedly to the possibility of a first title in 12 years. Jari Litmanen took a quick free-kick to send Emile Heskey racing down the left. He sped past Mario Melchiot and cut the ball back to Smicer, who side-footed a sublime volley past Carlo Cudicini.

90+4 GARY MCALLISTER v Everton (A) 16 April 2001 won 3-2
A goal few Reds will ever forget as Gary Mac fired home a fabulous free-kick to win the derby at Goodison. With Liverpool set to face Barcelona in the the UEFA Cup semi at Anfield three days later, they received a confidence-boosting win as McAllister deceived Everton keeper Paul Gerrard with a 44-yard set-piece. The Reds had earlier led through goals from Emile Heskey and Markus Babbel only to be pegged back by Duncan Ferguson and a David Unsworth penalty in the 83rd minute, five minutes after Igor Biscan was sent off after being shown his second of the game's 12 yellow cards.

90 STEVE MCMANAMAN v Barnsley (A) 28 March 1998 won 3-2
Pitch invasions, three sendings-off and a late winner – this game at Oakwell was certainly lively. Neil Redfearn's opener had been cancelled out by Karlheinz Riedle on the stroke of half-time before the chaos began. Darren Barnard saw red for a foul on Michael Owen before Riedle scored with a 30-yard screamer. Chris Morgan was then dismissed for an off-the-ball incident with Owen but Barnsley equalised from the spot through Redfearn. However McManaman restored Liverpool's lead in the final minute after being picked out from a free-kick. This was the catalyst to John Sheridan becoming the third Tyke to be sent off and the game ended with the home fans vented their anger towards referee Gary Willard.





90+2 ROBBIE FOWLER v Newcastle United (H) 10 March 1997 won 4-3
They say lightning doesn't strike twice, but one season on from the farnkly incredible 4-3 win over Newcastle United at Anfield, the Reds repeated the dose. This time Roy Evans' men led 3-0 at the interval thanks to goals from Steve McManaman, Patrik Berger and Robbie Fowler, but somehow they let Kenny Dalglish's Magpies back into it. Keith Gillespie had pulled one back before Faustino Asprilla and Warren Barton found a way past David James in the 87th and 88th minutes respectively. With the Newcastle fans celebrating and the rest of the stadium feeling deflated, up popped Fowler to head home Stig Inge Bjornbye's fine cross in stoppage-time and give Liverpool an incredible repeat of the previous season's result.

90+2 STAN COLLYMORE v Newcastle United (H) 3 April 1996 won 4-3
The original 4-3, and a game which will live long in the memory. It saw the Reds dent Newcastle's title aspirations in a thrilling encounter at Anfield. Robbie Fowler had put Liverpool ahead in the second minute only for Les Ferdinand and David Ginola to put the visitors in front. Fowler and Faustino Asprilla traded goals before Stan Collymore brought Liverpool level at 3-3. In the 92nd minute Collymore – then the top-flight's most expensive player having cost £8.5 million the previous summer – fired in his last-gasp winner to send the Kop wild.

90+1 JAMIE REDKNAPP v Blackburn Rovers (H) 14 May 1995 won 2-1
Never has a goal that subjected a Liverpool team to defeat been so celebrated by the Kop! Jamie Redknapp's brilliant injury-time free-kick gave Liverpool victory over Kenny Dalglish's Blackburn but Manchester United's failure to win at West Ham meant the King could celebrate a league title triumph on the Anfield pitch with his players. The Kop stood to applaud the new champions as they raised the trophy that signalled the end of United's dreams of an unprecedented 'double double' and placed Dalglish alongside Herbert Chapman and Brian Clough in winning the title with two different teams.

90 ROBBIE FOWLER v Arsenal (A) 12 April 1995 won 1-0
Robbie Fowler was the scourge of Arsenal in 1994/95. His four-minute hat-trick at Anfield in the August fixture between the sides had wounded the Gunners and he was their undoing again in the final minute at Highbury, linking with Steve McManaman to condemn Stewart Houston's side to their sixth defeat in seven league matches and leave them flirting with the possibility of being drawn into the relegation picture.

90+1 IAN RUSH v Manchester City (H) 22 Jan 1994 won 2-1
The Reds left it late to see off City. Trailing as early as the fourth minute to Carl Griffiths' lobbed goal, Ian Rush had levelled midway through the first half, and it was only the brilliance of City keeper Tony Coton that kept Liverpool from taking the lead. His efforts seemed to have secured a point for his side until Reds captain Rush headed home a perfect right-wing cross from Rob Jones.

90+1 ANDY BARLOW (og) v Oldham Athletic (H) 16 Oct 1993 won 2-1
One of two non-Liverpool players on this list of late LFC winners, Oldham full-back Andy Barlow suffered the ignominy of condemning his side to defeat as Graeme Souness's Reds toiled to a home win. Darren Beckford's goal for the visitors looked to have given them all three points before Robbie Fowler equalised in the 87th minute. Clearly deflated, things got worse for Joe Royle's Latics when centre-back Barlow diverted a wayward Neil Ruddock shot past Paul Gerrard to help Liverpool edge it.



Jamie: great goal, subdued celebration!

90+1 RONNY ROSENTHAL v Everton (H) 20 March 1993 won 1-0
Liverpool's first added-time winner in the Premier League era also settled a derby duel. With the Reds beaten at Goodison Park earlier in that maiden PL season of 1992/93, Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal made certain of revenge when he found a way past Neville Southall 40 seconds into over-time. Rosenthal had replaced Steve McManaman with a quarter-of-an-hour remaining and was the beneficiary of clever play by Ian Rush, who picked him out after being found by John Barnes' cross from the left flank. He tunred, he shot, he won it for the Reds.




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BE IN THAT
4
Kolo…
Kolo-Kolo…
Kolo-Kolo…
Kolo-Kolo-
Four-é!
24
players born in Africa have appeared for the Reds first team – Kolo became the 22nd when debuting in 2013
TWELVE
major honours won by Toure, his first being the CAF Super Cup with ASEC Mimosas in 1999
CAF
SUPER CUP
orange
2
brothers opposed each other for the first time in a League Cup final this season: Kolo and Yaya Toure
214,091
Twitter users follow @KoloKoloToure28 but Kolo only follows 61 tweeters himself
Standard
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

NUMBER

NINETEEN

different scorers have netted for LFC this season – a club record set when Kolo got his first Liverpool goal at Aston Villa in February

1

Roxy Music's cover version of John Lennon's Jealous Guy was top of the charts when Kolo was born on 19 March 1981



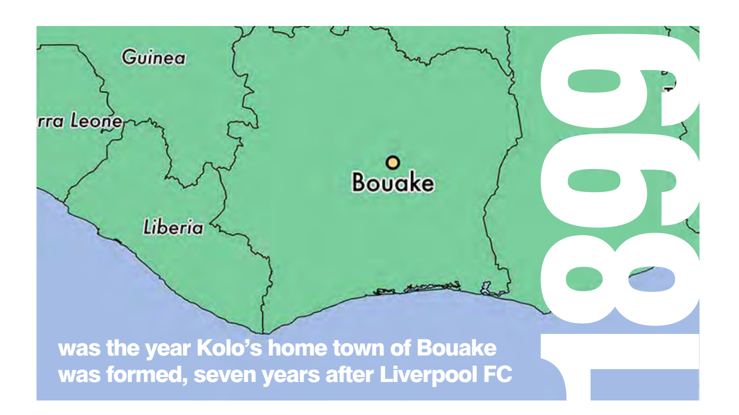
118

caps have been won by Toure at international level

KT

0

first team players in the history of Liverpool Football Club had the initials 'KT' before Kolo Toure arrived at Anfield



1899

was the year Kolo's home town of Bouake was formed, seven years after Liverpool FC



the size of the fee that Man City paid Arsenal for Kolo in 2009



7

times Kolo has appeared for Ivory Coast in the African Cup of Nations, winning it in 2015

21

appearances were made by Kolo against the Redmen for Arsenal and Man City – he was only on the losing side four times



OUR GIRLS FROM THE VALLEYS

While the men's squad have Joe Allen and Danny Ward the Ladies have Sophie Ingle (left) and Natasha Harding – so let's meet Liverpool's female Red Dragons

While Joe Allen is set to play a part in Wales' first major tournament appearance since 1958 this summer, he and young goalkeeper Danny Ward aren't the only ones flying the flag of the Red Dragons at LFC. Liverpool Ladies bolstered their squad for 2016 by making nine new signings – and two are proud Welsh women.

Midfielder Sophie Ingle is captain of the Wales national team and, at 24, already has more than 50 caps behind her. She is joined in the Reds line-up by pacy attacker Natasha Harding who's been a member of the Welsh squad since 2008. Both are delighted to have linked up with Liverpool – though for Ingle, who hails from Llandough in the Vale of Glamorgan, the move to Merseyside is extra-special.

"As a kid growing up I supported Liverpool and used to come up to Anfield with my family. I know it's a 'cringey' thing to say but to actually play for the side is a dream-come-true. I never expected it as a kid.

"My best mate's dad was my football coach and he supported Liverpool, so from five years of age I did too. It was quite a journey from our village to Anfield but I first came up when I was ten or 11 and I always enjoyed it. Stevie G was an early hero and he inspired me to play in centre-midfield."

Harding, meanwhile, was born in Caerphilly and joined the Reds from Manchester City after helping the Blues qualify for the Champions League. "I think these are pretty exciting times to be a part of Liverpool," she says. "We have added a lot of very technical players as well as pacy players and we've



also got strength-in-depth in a lot of areas on the pitch.

"A lot of people wrote Liverpool off before the season had finished last year and now I think people are actually starting to take notice of the signings that we've made. [Manager] Scott Rogers and his staff have done a fantastic job to scout some great players."

Ingle and Harding were both students at the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff earlier in their careers. Sophie has a degree in sport development and also holds a UEFA 'B' coaching licence, while Natasha has a degree in sports coaching and represented Great Britain at the World University Games in China in 2011. They have known each other for many years and were part of the Bristol Academy squad that pushed Liverpool all the way for the FA WSL title in 2013.

Natasha sees parallels with that Bristol side: "There is no real pressure on us this season as people don't expect too much from us. I experienced that at Bristol when we were fighting for the title with Liverpool. The same people wrote us off and there was no pressure. Some people relish that and some don't, but I think that's

"These are exciting times for Liverpool – we've got strength in depth"

when you see the better players come out of their shells and hopefully that will work in our case as well."

Sophie says she's adjusted quickly to life at Liverpool. "I've settled in really well, the girls have all been lovely and the staff have been great as well. I'm a bit of a home-bird and I have a big family so it was a big decision to leave Wales but I think it's the best choice for footballing reasons.

"As soon as I met with Scott [Rogers] to have talks about coming to the club, I just felt that he was a really honest guy and I needed someone to be honest with me about where I was going to play. From day-one something clicked and I thought he was a genuine guy and on the pitch he's teaching me a lot."

Sophie plays as a centre-back for



Wales but is pleased to have settled into a role in the centre of midfield with the Reds. "I always played centre-mid as a kid, so hopefully I can stick to that position for Liverpool. For Wales I'm a centre-half so it means changing mind-sets, but I suppose it helps me playing in a few different positions because I can learn areas of the game from different perspectives."

While Wales' men are looking forward to coming up against England, Russia and Slovakia in France at Euro 2016, the ladies are bidding to qualify for next year's equivalent in the Netherlands. They are currently third in their group with the top team qualifying and the runners-up either making it through or reaching a play-off. Ingle, Harding and company will play a qualifier in Kazakhstan this month ahead of concluding this stage with crucial home games against current top two Norway and Austria later in the year. As part of their preparations, they took part in the traditional Cyprus Cup tournament last month.

"This time of year there is always a tough tournament, sometimes we go to the Algarve but this time we went to Cyprus," Sophie explains. "We had four games in eight days so with recovery days and training in-between it was quite tough. It's tough on your legs and tough on your minds but I think we did really well. We were bottom seeds in our group but ended up coming sixth out of eight.

"It'll be very interesting to see how teams deal with us – we will be dangerous"

"Hopefully when we go to Kazakhstan we can get the three points ahead of the big game against Norway in June, when hopefully again with the home advantage we can try and get a positive result. We're not stupid and we know that they're a massive team and it's going to be a difficult task. But if we can get something out of it then we can go into the following game against Israel in September with a good mind-set."

Natasha says: "It's exciting and the girls we've got together in the Wales squad now know that we've got a great foundation with young players and also players who are verging on 100 caps such as Jess Fishlock and Helen Ward. We're going to do everything that we can to work hard, put everything out on the table and hopefully still get to the qualification that we all want."

Before then, however, there is plenty to fight for with Liverpool. "It's great to work with not just one or two good players around me but the whole squad," says Sophie. "Everyone can compete for positions and that gives the manager an extra few decisions to make on game-day, but if we have any injuries we've got replacements who are as good as the girls starting."

Natasha adds: "It's going to be very interesting to see how teams deal with us and if I had to describe our attacking line-up in one word it would be 'pace'. I think pace is very hard to mark, especially in the women's game. I think we will be very dangerous."

Natasha on the ball



Sophie in training with Gemma Bonner (left)

Liverpool Ladies 2016

MARCH
20 MAN CITY FAC5 (H) 0-2
23 BIRMINGHAM C (H) 1-0

APRIL
23 SUNDERLAND (H)
27 CHELSEA (H)

MAY
2 Notts Co (A)
8 Chelsea (A)
18 Sunderland (A)
25 MAN CITY (H)

JUNE
26 Man City (A)

JULY
2/3 Everton Continental Cup R1 (A)
9 READING (H)
16 NOTTS CO (H)
31 Arsenal (A)

AUGUST
6/7 Continental Cup QF (tbc)
27 DONCASTER RB (H)

SEPTEMBER
1 Reading (A)
3/4 Continental Cup SF (tbc)
25 Birmingham C (A)

OCTOBER
1/2 Continental Cup final (tbc)
9 Doncaster RB (A)

NOVEMBER
5/6 ARSENAL (H)

Words: William Hughes

Ladies

2016 Home Fixtures

Sunderland AFC Ladies
Sat 23rd Apr | 5:30pm | FA WSL

Chelsea Ladies
Wed 27th Apr | 6:30pm | FA WSL

Manchester City Women
Wed 25th May | 6:30pm | FA WSL

Reading Ladies FC
Sat 9th July | 5:30pm | FA WSL

Notts County Ladies FC
Sat 16th July | 5:30pm | FA WSL

Doncaster Rover Belles
Sat 27th Aug | 5:30pm | FA WSL

Arsenal Ladies
Sun 6th Nov | 6pm | FA WSL

For tickets, latest fixtures and team news, please visit **liverpoolfc.com/ladies**



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PHIL COOL

Phil Babb had all the attributes of a top-class modern centre-half in the 1990s – but he played in a volatile era for Liverpool FC

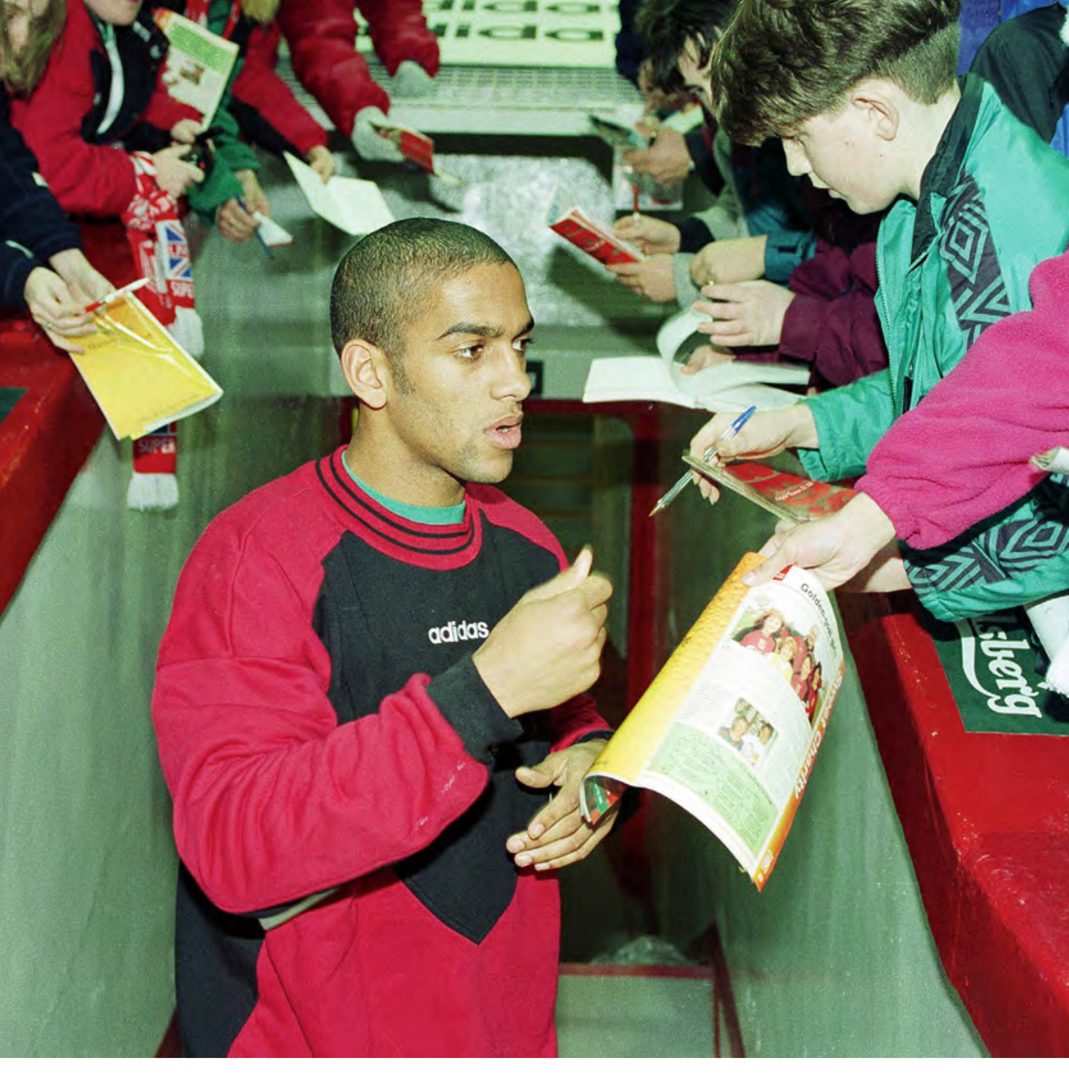
Phil Babb. For lots of Liverpool supporters his name conjures up one very painful-looking image: sliding at pace into an Anfield Road goalpost while trying to prevent Chelsea from scoring in 1998. Even now, nearly 20 years later, that collision with the woodwork often crops up when Phil talks to football fans.

It's almost a metaphor for his time at Liverpool FC: the intentions were good and there was genuine hope it might work out very well indeed, but ultimately it didn't quite go to plan.

The Londoner's signing was a shrewd move by boss Roy Evans, who'd just begun his first full season in charge at Anfield, 1994/95, having taken over from Graeme Souness. When Liverpool ended the previous campaign in eighth position with a goal-difference of +4, the common consensus was that their defence needed a major overhaul. With an attack featuring the cutting edge of Robbie Fowler, Ian Rush and Steve McManaman, well supported by John Barnes and Jamie Redknapp, it was a reasonable argument.

Evans duly added two new centre-backs to the ranks in the space of as many September days in 1994, with the season already underway (pre-transfer window era). Babb arrived from Coventry City on the first of the month for a fee of £3.6 million, with John Scales following him 24 hours later for £3.5 million. At 23 years of age, Babb particularly looked like he had the potential to establish himself at Liverpool FC for a long time. He had real pace which allowed him to go toe to toe with even the quickest attackers.

Kopite optimism was based on Phil's composed performances for Jack Charlton's Republic of Ireland in the heat of the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States. He'd qualified to play through his Carlow-born mother,



Signing in with the fans at Anfield in 1994

Phil had caught the eye alongside Paul McGrath at USA 94



Xmas photoshoot for *90 Minutes* magazine with Ruddock and Scales

and had caught the eye alongside the exceptional Paul McGrath at the heart of the Irish defence. The *Observer* described him as 'superb' in a 1-0 group win over eventual finalists Italy (the pony-tailed Roberto Baggio and all) at the Giants Stadium in New York – the only goal coming from ex-Reds player Ray Houghton's shot from outside the box. A fortnight later Babb's Eire lost 2-0 to Dennis Bergkamp and co's Netherlands in the last 16. Reds boss Evans, though, insisted that Babb was a work-in-progress: "He's a good player and it remains to be seen whether he'll turn out to be a Liverpool player."

Getting the deal done for Coventry's young skipper and player of the year had taken a few months, with Tottenham and Kenny Dalglish's big-spending Blackburn Rovers also said to be interested. The price tag came with high expectations but Babb was unfazed. "I don't feel there's any pressure," he said upon signing. "They've always bought quality players and I feel I'm a quality player, so I look forward to being here a long time. The coaching staff are good enough and experienced enough to improve me by pulling the right strings."

For two seasons the Reds conceded less goals than the champions

It was thought Babb's sole partner in central defence for season 1994/95 would be Neil Ruddock, who'd joined from Tottenham the previous year. Evans even said: "They are different types of players and it will be strange having two left-footers, but I think they'll work well together." But the arrival of Scales the following day changed that idea, and initially it was he and not Babb who slotted in alongside Ruddock in the next fixture: a scoreless draw at home to Harry Redknapp's West Ham with Phil an unused sub.

This was followed by a trip to Manchester United, with Babb again on the bench. This time he did enter the fray, on 70 minutes with the score nil-nil. But in the next three minutes United netted twice, a misjudged Scales' back-header the catalyst for the opener. Despite this setback Babb, Scales and Ruddock all started as a three-at-the-back formation, with wing-backs either side, for a trip to Kevin Keegan's Newcastle which ended 1-1.

Over the coming months the system became the norm and Liverpool under Evans became recognised as a progressive and entertaining team. They finished 1994/95 in fourth place with a goal-difference of plus 28, having conceded less goals than champions Blackburn Rovers.

Phil became a regular on the team-sheet, appearing 87 times in his first two seasons as the Coca-Cola (League) Cup was won in 1995 and an FA Cup final reached the next year. There was a third-place finish in 1995/96, again with less goals conceded than the title winners, Man United. Some fans remember that Reds defence, including David James between the posts, with the occasional wince, but clearly they were doing something right.

It was halfway through his third season here, 1996/97, when Liverpool lost their way under Roy Evans and Phil lost his place in the side. Mick McCarthy, his manager at international level with the Republic of Ireland, felt he knew the cause of the problem: "I don't think that formation [three-at-the-back] suited Babb, who has always looked more comfortable in the middle of a flat-back-four. It didn't help that other senior players at Liverpool were struggling at the time, and the end-product was that Phil began to lose confidence."

Injuries and the abandonment of 3-5-2 in favour of a more traditional four-man defence, plus competition from a young Dominic Matteo and a resurgent Mark Wright, reduced Babb's playing time. During the second half of season 1997/98 he featured again, and Gerard Houllier's arrival in July 1998, initially as joint-manager alongside Evans, seemed to coincide with a reprieve. Babb started the first ten fixtures of 1998/99, a run only halted by that unwanted appointment with the woodwork versus Chelsea.

Although he did return to the team, it was to be his last season at LFC. During the summer of 1999 he wasn't included in the squad for a pre-season trip to Belfast – instead new signing Sami Hyypia debuted in the red shirt. With another centre-half Stephane Henchoz arriving from Blackburn Rovers it was clear Houllier was building his own team and Babb wasn't part of the plan.

In January 2000 he joined John Aldridge's Tranmere Rovers on-loan, and the following summer he moved to Sporting Lisbon in Portugal before ending his playing career with Sunderland. He subsequently worked in the media, investing in a new golf magazine (in his teens he'd been torn between enrolling on a journalism course or becoming a professional sportsman) and he recently managed Hayes & Yeading in the Conference South. At the start of 2016 he hooked up with fellow Reds for the Liverpool FC Legends trip to Australia.

That goalpost never quite went away, but he's always been able to laugh about it, as he demonstrated alongside fellow ex-Red Jason McAteer on Irish TV in 2014 when the footage was shown. McAteer chuckled: "Phil was staying with me at the time and had to sit on a rubber ring for a week afterwards." Babb's response: "Can I just say, a year later I had a lovely, beautiful baby girl."



In action for Liverpool at Old Trafford in October 1996

Words: John Hynes

BILL SHANKLY BOY

Alex Totten was one of Scottish football's top managers for two decades…and his schooling began at Anfield

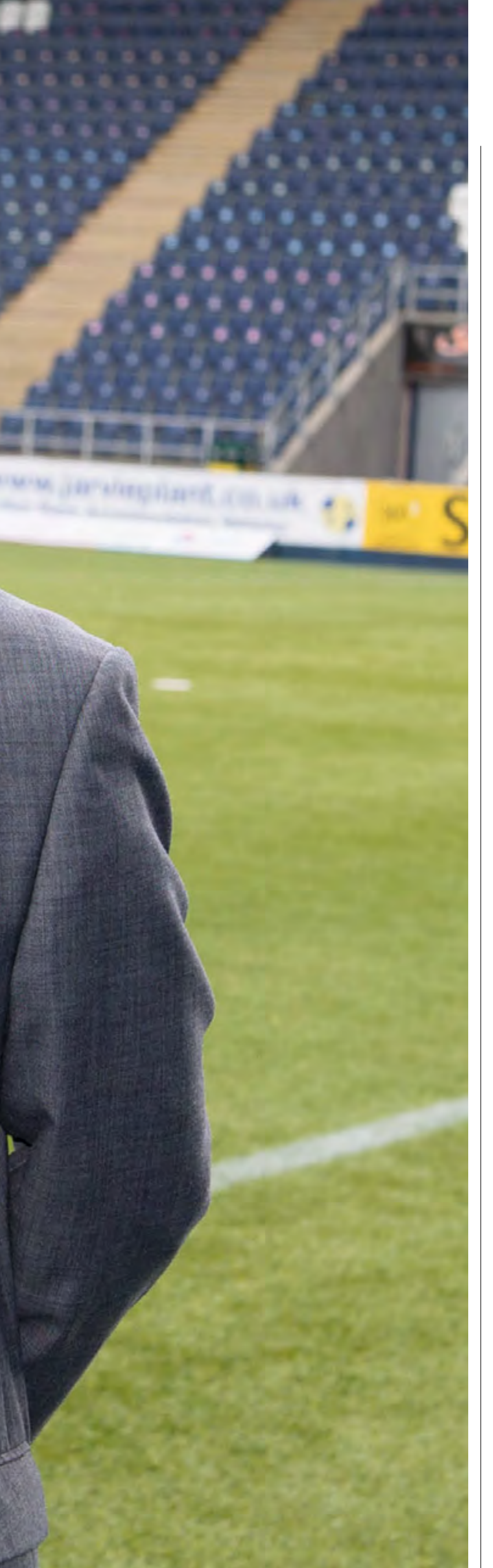
An "al fresco childhood" is how Alex Totten describes his formative years growing up in the village of Dennyloanhead, around halfway between Glasgow and Edinburgh in central Scotland. It was the love for being outdoors, kicking a football around, that helped shaped the talent which saw him join Liverpool FC as an amateur in 1961.

Already his ability as a youngster to play in a variety of positions, including goalkeeper and across the back-four, had marked him out as a versatile and skilful player. Full-back became his role for the Stirlingshire Schools FA side then a Scotland national team that won the Victory Shield, the annual tournament competed for by the under-15 teams of the home nations since the war.

"Because we were such a successful [Scotland] team there was always a posse of scouts at our games, and I was asked down to Manchester United to sign," explains, Alex, now 70. "We were given a tour of the ground and taken to see cricket and to the cinema to see the movie *The Guns of Navarone*. It was all very exciting." It was 1961, and during the visit he

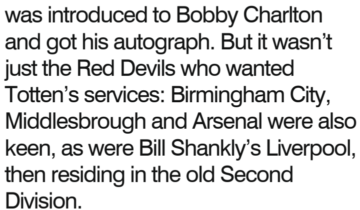


With the Scottish League Cup during a mid-80s spell with Rangers





On the ball with Shanks and young team-mates



was introduced to Bobby Charlton and got his autograph. But it wasn't just the Red Devils who wanted Totten's services: Birmingham City, Middlesbrough and Arsenal were also keen, as were Bill Shankly's Liverpool, then residing in the old Second Division.

"My dad and I went to Anfield and were ushered in to see Shanks. Instantly I was impressed – he just had an aura. His message was: this club is going places. He clearly convinced me because I picked them over clubs in the top division at the time. It was a tough decision and I did need a few days to talk it over with my dad – no agents then – and come to a conclusion."

"My dad and I were ushered in to see Shanks – he just had this aura"

Shankly had arrived at the end of 1959 and was beginning to shape the team that would make Liverpool the best football team in the land. Signing some of his fellow countrymen was a big part of the plan. "Ian St John arrived in May, I signed in July and big Ron Yeats came along in August," says Totten. "Having so many Scottish voices around the place made it much more easier to settle in. But it wasn't a case of a Scottish clique – everybody got on well.

"As a boy of 15 it was obviously a massive move for me to leave home. At the same time it was exciting, too. When I travelled down to start my career I arrived at Lime Street Station to find [youth officer] Tom Bush holding up a sign with my name on it. I felt like a VIP."

From there it was a short journey up Scotland Road and onto the ground at Anfield. "It's still fresh in my mind even though it was obviously a long time ago. Shanks greeted me like I was a family member."

Alex's new address wasn't far away from the stadium: no 258 Anfield Road in a house run by Mrs Murphy. Although happy to be starting life at a new club, the reality of the situation struck him that evening as he began to unpack his suitcase. "Tears started rolling down my face. I think it was the enormity of the whole thing really, but I never once considered quitting." There was no time for feeling sorry for himself. Instead he got on with the task of trying to rise through the ranks to the first team.

In those days youngsters had more than playing duties to fulfil. Being paid by the club meant doing various jobs. "We'd get the training gear ready for the first team or scrub the baths and showers. Cleaning out the Kop on the Monday after a weekend game was another of our chores. None of us minded that too much because we'd find a load of money, probably more than our wages. I also had to polish Ian St John's boots and, in the summer, we would paint the stadium."

Such tasks went hand-in-hand with playing for the youth team, then the 'A' and 'B' sides before progressing to the reserve team. There was also a first professional contract at the age of 17. He was doing well, but he never took anything for granted.

"You couldn't relax because training was intense and there was so much competition for places. Also, the coaching staff would always tell you if they felt you weren't doing something right. One day I asked [trainer] Bob Paisley why he was always getting on



Presented with a prize for being youngest member of the Liverpool FC ground staff

at me. He told me the day he stops getting on at me is the day to start worrying, because that meant he wasn't interested in me improving."

The problem for Totten was that the man in possession of the senior right-back berth was England international Gerry Byrne. So whenever the young Scot went to see Shankly about the chance of playing-time, he knew what the response would be. The boss, understandably, was reluctant to alter a winning line-up. Another visit to the office in 1964, instigated by Shankly, brought the news no young footballer wants to hear. "'I'm going to release you', Shankly told me before explaining his reasons. 'It's not because you're a bad player but because your opportunities will be limited here'."

It was a mighty blow. Gutted, but still determined to become a professional, Totten went back to Scotland and began a career that would see him feature for Dundee, managed by Bill's brother Bob Shankly, Dunfermline, Falkirk, Queen of the South and Alloa, before he moved into management.

As a boss Alex enjoyed spells at Alloa, Falkirk, Dumbarton, St Johnstone, East Fife and Kilmarnock. He was the Scottish Football Writers' Association Manager of the Year in 1991 with St Johnstone and also served as Jock Wallace's number two at Glasgow Rangers.



With Brian Laudrup at the 2009 Scottish Cup final between Falkirk and Rangers

"Bob said the day he stopped getting at me was the day to worry"

"I ended up being a manager for 22 years and felt I had success. I'm sure some of the desire to go into that side of the game came from working with Shanks at Liverpool on a daily basis and experiencing his methods up close. I learned so much from him, particularly the way he treated everybody the same and was so good at man-management."

Now working with former club Falkirk in hospitality and sponsorship, Alex retains a deep affection for Liverpool FC. "I've brought my grandkids down to Anfield and the stadium still has an aura about it, even when it's empty. It's a special place, and a special city."

■ **Alex Totten's autobiography *Totts: From the Kop to the Kelpies* is on sale now (published by Pitch).**

Words: John Hynes

PASSION





PLAY

Adam Lallana reveals that he thrives off the manager's touchline energy and emotion

Throughout the match Klopp did not stop', read the newspaper report. 'He was down in that technical area cajoling, coruscating and castigating. To put it bluntly the Liverpool manager did his nut. He did his nut at Simon Mignolet. He did his nut at James Milner, his makeshift left-back, and he did his nut at his captain Jordan Henderson, who later departed ill. But, despite that, it was clear what he wanted. It was evident what he was trying to achieve; the identity he is attempting to create. This was not a Klopp team in terms of recruitment but it was in terms of intent'…

The game: Manchester United away in the second leg of the UEFA Europa League round of 16. The words: from *The Daily Telegraph*'s Jason Burt, neatly summing up how our manager reacts while stood on the touchline watching his troops in action.

With Klopp so animated and vocal there is never any misunderstanding about what he wants from an individual. He certainly gets his message across – and Adam Lallana believes his method is hugely beneficial during a game. "The boss has an edge," our midfielder points out. "I think that's good. If he is shouting at you then it's never in a malicious way. It's because he wants you to do well.

"Personally, I feel I thrive off it. Other players might react differently but it has certainly helped me. If maybe I wasn't at the pace of a game or had missed a few passes, hearing the boss makes me focus more. It's his style of management: passionate and emotional. That's the way he is and he'll tell us before a game that he'll be involved. He transmits his emotion to us because he wants the team to play with passion and emotion too."

Lallana feels the number of occasions when Liverpool have scored late and crucial goals during Klopp's short tenure so far is proof that tapping in to the emotions of the players and the supporters is having a positive effect already. At the time of writing there have been last-gasp strikes in Premier League action against West Brom, Arsenal, Norwich City and Crystal Palace, to help turn defeats into draws or draws into victories.

"In those moments you have to dig deep and the fact we have done so on a few occasions epitomises what the manager has brought to the club," continues Adam. "Not long after he came in he mentioned about people leaving early and how he didn't like to see that. He wants everybody – fans and players – giving it all right up until the final whistle.

"Thankfully we are giving the fans more reasons to stay now because



"We're giving fans more reasons to think we can score late on"

they will feel there is a good chance we might score in the last few minutes."

Of course Lallana was the man who provided one of those dramatic interventions when, at Carrow Road back in January, he popped up inside the penalty area in the 95th minute to score the ninth goal of the afternoon and earn a 5-4 victory in what the BBC described as 'one of the most dramatic games of the season'. It was the conclusion of a topsy-turvy afternoon that saw us go 1-0 up before trailing 3-1, then finding ourselves 4-3 ahead only for the hosts to equalise in the 90th minute through defender Sebastian Bassong.

He may have ended up as the hero, but initially Lallana wasn't even going to make the trip to East Anglia for the lunchtime kick-off. "Looking back now, I think that was a big moment for me in my Liverpool career. I easily might not have travelled that day as I had a slight hamstring strain after the Man United game at home. But I went, came off the bench and was really involved so it was a risk that was worth taking."

In truth he did more than just be involved after entering the fray two minutes before the hour-mark. His first big contribution was creating Roberto Firmino's second of the day to make it 3-3. Then there was his match-winning intervention so late on. "The ball sat up nicely for me and I knew it was going in as soon as it left my boot," he says of the shot that initially bounced into the turf before finishing in the corner of Declan Rudd's net.

"Then…" He smiles while he pauses. "…the manager was in front of me in a second so I didn't have time to think about where I was running or what exactly I was doing. Everything was a




HENDERSON
14
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Anfield arrival

"There are still times when it feels like you are a kid playing again"

blur. It was a great moment, something which I'll certainly look back on after I've finished playing.

"At the end of it I wasn't even sure what the final score was. I had to ask the press officer if it was 4-3 or 5-4. That tells you how much was going on. It's only when you looked back on it that you could take it all in. Thankfully we came out on the right end of the scoreline."

Such moments of sheer joy and *Roy of the Rovers* style finales are the reason why kids become infatuated with football at an early age. Lallana was the same, although he admits that some of the carefree mentality from childhood does get diluted as you progress in to the professional ranks. "When you are a kid you don't have a worry in the world. All you think about is playing football every day and scoring goals. As a professional it changes slightly because fans and people at the club are counting on you. So that brings pressure. Football becomes more of a job. If results aren't good it can be difficult.

"But there are still times when it feels like you are a kid playing again, such as that Norwich goal or helping the team to a good win over a rival, and that's what football should be all about. Those moments."

His decisive strike that day, when he was initially out on the left flank before making his way into the box to latch on to a loose ball, was an example of what the manager calls being "quicker in the mind." It's a phrase Klopp has uttered in press-conferences and is regularly heard on the pitches at Melwood.

"A lot of his training is based around that: always thinking and anticipating. He wants you to be on the front foot all of the time, reacting well to second-balls and anticipating where it might go. That's a big part of effective counter-pressing."

Much was made of that *gegenpressing* style of play when Klopp arrived in the Premier League back in October and there have been some examples of it working superbly, such as the 4-1 win at Manchester City. On other occasions it hasn't functioned quite as well. Whatever style of play the manager is trying to hone, it seems Lallana is an essential part of his plans as he usually starts when available. The fact that he was still in the squad for the visit to Norwich despite not being 100 per cent fit is



Melwood moment

further evidence of as much.

"The manager has picked me regularly," he acknowledges. "I've had a good run of games and that's important because it shows he believes in me and trusts me. I did go through a barren spell in front of goal – I think that happens to players sometimes – but he continued to pick me so I must have been doing something right for the team.

"Also, I don't think it's a coincidence that my form has been good when the team have been playing well because it's much easier for individuals to do well when the side is winning. For a while now we've been churning out some good results. At the same time, though, we know we need to be more consistent. Sometimes it feels like we are taking two steps forward and one back. Possibly that is the case when a new manager comes in at any football club. You have players finding their feet under him and obviously he needs time too."

Naturally, the first summer transfer-window for a new man in charge could also bring about some changes in the playing personnel, something Lallana is well aware of. "I think there will be some signings – you have to expect that because a new manager will inevitably want to put his own stamp on the squad and I think most clubs have comings and goings every summer. Before then we just need to concentrate upon finishing the season well."

"The boss has an edge and that's good – it's certainly helped me"

And the England man is confident we can do exactly that. "I think we can get better and better, particularly if everybody is fit. For me it was no coincidence that our results got better when we had most of the lads available. That competition for places keeps everybody on their toes and means you have to be training well to get in the team initially and then playing well to stay in the side.

"If we can continue to keep improving as a group then I think we can have some success."



Klopp man

Words: John Hynes


Standard
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PUMA



Club and country

Adam Lallana was one of five Liverpool players who featured for England over the recent international break. He played in the win over Germany and the defeat at home to the Netherlands, along with Nathaniel Clyne who provided an assist for Jamie Vardy's goal in Berlin. In the same game it was Jordan Henderson's corner that was headed home by Eric Dier for the winner, while against the Dutch a few days later James Milner was named England captain for the first time and Daniel Sturridge also saw action.

Midfielder Emre Can was in the Germany team that hosted England and also won his fifth cap as a substitute in a 4-1 win over Italy. Elsewhere Mamadou Sakho played the full 90 minutes of France's 4-2 home win over Russia; Martin Skrtel started for Slovakia in a 2-2 draw with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin; and Joe Allen played for Wales in a 1-0 defeat to Ukraine in Kiev, with Reds goalkeeper Danny Ward in the squad but not adding to the maiden senior cap he earned against Northern Ireland earlier in the week.


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Neil Mellor

It's a joy to watch Philippe Coutinho blossom into a truly great player

Philippe Coutinho became the first Liverpool player to score 10 goals this season and that's the type of goalscoring tally he should be reaching, minimum. The Brazilian is a match-winner, an exciting player to watch and an individual who makes a difference in tight games through his brilliance in the final third.

Since moving to Liverpool from Inter Milan he has been given the platform, as Luis Suarez was, to become a top-class player. He's yet to reach the level Suarez did, but he's a player you look at and think, with some added consistency and maturity, could develop into one of the very best in the Premier League.

The interesting thing for me is that nine of Coutinho's 10 goals this season have come since Jürgen Klopp was appointed as manager whereas his previous best total was eight. It suggests that Coutinho is affecting the game more in the final third now, perhaps because Klopp has given him added belief and confidence.

He scores a lot of goals from outside the penalty area, but his strikes against Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur show he can get goals from inside the box too. Against Spurs he finished precisely after a good give-and-go with Daniel Sturridge and his goal in the Europa League at Old Trafford was something special.

Coutinho created something from nothing for that tie-killing goal. That is priceless in football. When he picked up the ball nobody thought he was going to score, but he had the belief and ability to beat his man and then deceive a top goalkeeper in David de Gea at his near post with a sublime finish. Klopp must be encouraging Coutinho to express himself for him to have the confidence to even try to score a goal like that. Such skill and finishing is what Liverpool fans want to see, especially against Man United!

He's developing a knack of scoring in big games, but to continue to flourish he needs good movement ahead of him. When you lengthen the game it gives Coutinho more space to operate in and when he's got time on the ball he can find a killer pass or hit the target from long range. When things get congested in central areas, or there's no movement ahead of him, he is less effective so strikers like Sturridge and Divock Origi have got important jobs to do in order to create the space he requires.

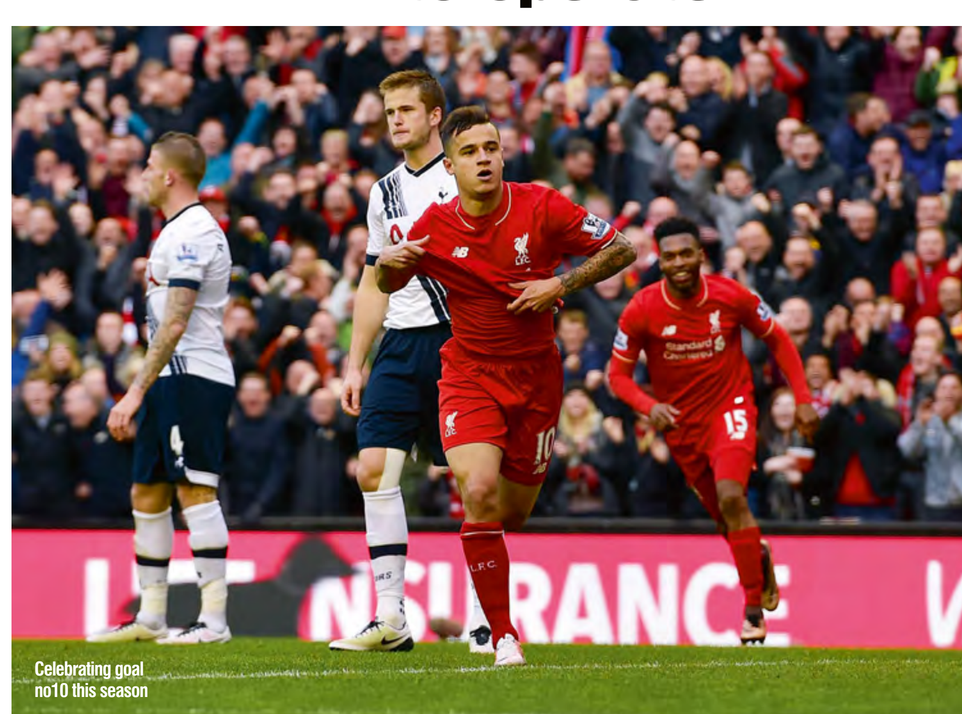
"When you lengthen the game Coutinho has space to operate"

His link-play is another big facet of his game and the way he works with Roberto Firmino bodes well for the future. They have an understanding between them that is exciting to watch. They clearly enjoy playing alongside each other and I think they'll increasingly get the best out of each other and become big players for Liverpool in the Klopp era.

Of course new players will arrive this summer and I imagine one of them will be a striker who is capable of lengthening the game through his pace and movement to give Coutinho and Firmino more space to operate in at Anfield. Away from home we saw how devastating they can be at Man City, where Firmino played as a false nine and Adam Lallana was outstanding. But at Anfield we have to try to prise open defences and I think that needs an out-and-out striker who can work a defence to provide space behind him. Coutinho isn't someone who runs beyond a striker. He makes things happen when the ball is at his feet, and the player most comparable to him that I shared a dressing-room with at Liverpool was Jari Litmanen. What an incredible player Jari was, and one of the similarities between the two is the sharpness they have on the ball.

Few players can pass the ball as sharply as Coutinho does, but you have to allow him to get into the final third to make the killer passes he is capable of. Do that and he will flourish. When I see Coutinho's name on the team-sheet I'm always hopeful Liverpool will create goalscoring opportunities, but now he is a player whose name appears on the scoresheet more frequently too, and that is brilliant to see.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


Celebrating goal no10 this season



CLUB

Anfield redevelopment latest plus Kolo and Alex unveil a fab new 3G pitch

This artist's impression shows what fans in the Main Stand concourses can enjoy next season. If the redeveloped stand's 20,500 seats were placed end-to-end, for how far would they stretch: (a) four miles (b) five miles (c) six miles? **Answer on p98**

INSIDE EDGE

New-look Main Stand interior focused on the future and inspired by history

Liverpool FC has released new artist impressions showing the state-of-the-art facilities that fans can look forward to when the expanded Main Stand opens next season.

The latest visuals showcase the plans for two new concourses which will be the biggest at Anfield and provide space for spectators to gather and enjoy modern facilities before the game. The concourses will be open to all fans with a ticket for the Main Stand.

The spaces have been designed to celebrate fans and their passion for the club, with artwork taking inspiration from scarves and flags, and the colour scheme and materials inspired by Anfield's architecture and the city of Liverpool's maritime heritage. Wall graphics reflect the history of the club, with lettering used in the style of past matchday programmes.

Another feature is the historic Main Stand boundary wall, built even before football was played at Anfield and now recognised in its original location with a permanent tribute. A central seating area will also tell the story of the Main Stand, with some of the original 1906 seating incorporated to create a permanent reference.

On target for completion this year, the expanded Main Stand is set to comprise three tiers, a widened player tunnel, new team benches, media platform, wheelchair viewing positions and state-of-the-art facilities for fans inside. It will one of the largest all-seater single stands in European football, incorporating an extra 8,500 fans.



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WANT TO WORK AT ANFIELD?

A massive recruitment drive will see the club create over 1,000 new matchday roles at the venue



Liverpool FC has announced the creation of more than 1,000 new matchday roles at Anfield, in preparation for the expanded Main Stand's opening next season.

The recruitment drive – the biggest in the club's history – aims to grow the LFC family ready for 2015/16's additional 8,500 fans. The expanded 20,500-seater stand will feature a state-of-the-art fan concourse and hospitality facilities together with premium public spaces, creating a range of casual opportunities across the club's matchday retail, catering, safety, hospitality, tours and museum teams.

Anfield and North Liverpool residents were given an opportunity to apply at a special event last week when 500 local people heard first-hand about the many different openings. To find out more please visit www.jobsatlfc.com or call 0151 264 2003.

LFC has applied for outline planning consent to develop a purpose-built store with a first-floor cafe overlooking the Main Stand's new public realm. Its positioning with an attractive frontage onto Walton Breck Road underlines the club's commitment to the area's regeneration, aiming to bring investment and generate increased activity in the area. Please see the advert on page 17 for more details.

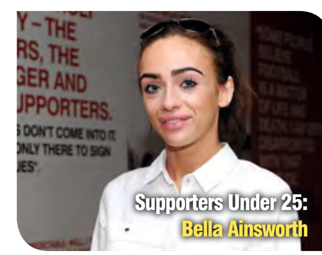
NEVER TALK ALONE


Honorary President: Karen Gill

Who's who on this season's Liverpool FC Supporters Committee

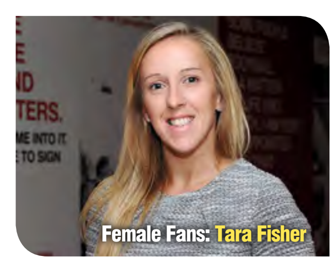
The Liverpool FC Supporters Committee was set up to help improve communications between fans and the club, and its various members (including new appointments from this season) represent all of the major constituencies among the supporter base. Contact details are at liverpoolfc.com/fans/supporters-committee. You can also follow us on Twitter @LFCSupCom.


Fans who attend away games: Anna Burgess


Supporters Under 25: Bella Ainsworth


Fans in the Merseyside area: Graham Smith


Family Match Goers: Ian Byrne


Female Fans: Tara Fisher


Disabled Supporters: Katie Price


Official Supporters' Clubs: Lee Foley


Season Ticket Holders and Hospitality: Tony Fitzgerald


Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Supporters: Yunus Lunat


International fans: Matthew Selby


LGBT Supporters: Paul Amann

Steven with pupils and Foundation coaches

LET US PLAY!

Kolo and Alex on hand to open fabulous new 3G playing surface for local youngsters

Reds defenders Kolo Toure and Alex Greenwood have helped to open a new state-of-the-art football pitch for youngsters at Broadgreen.

Centre-half Kolo and Ladies left-back Alex joined former Everton striker Graeme Sharp in officially opening Broadgreen International School's £340,000, third-generation artificial grass pitch. The project was made possible thanks to support from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund, which provides grants towards developing new or refurbished grassroots-football facilities and is delivered by the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The trio also signed autographs and chatted with pupils, as Liverpool FC Foundation College and Broadgreen Sixth Form students took part in a series of drills and matches, and Everton in the Community coaches ran a training session.

The site of the new floodlit '3G AGP' was previously home to a concrete games area in a poor state. Broadgreen is a resourced school for the profoundly deaf, partially sighted and pupils with special needs, but it had had no other outdoor green space and the nearest suitable facility was 20 minutes away. Now its pupils and those from other local specialist schools will be able to access the new facility for play and coaching.

"I was delighted to open the new pitch," said Kolo. "It will make a real difference to the experience of the students and grassroots clubs who use it. And it was great to see Liverpool FC Foundation College and Broadgreen Sixth Form players in action – you can see how much the new facility means to them."

Alex added: "It was a privilege to open this facility with Kolo. Today proves how important these pitches are – it was full of youngsters from the school and LFC Foundation College enjoying their football. The pitch will improve the experience of playing for this community and the Premier League & the FA Facilities Fund, through the Football Foundation, deserve credit for making it a reality."



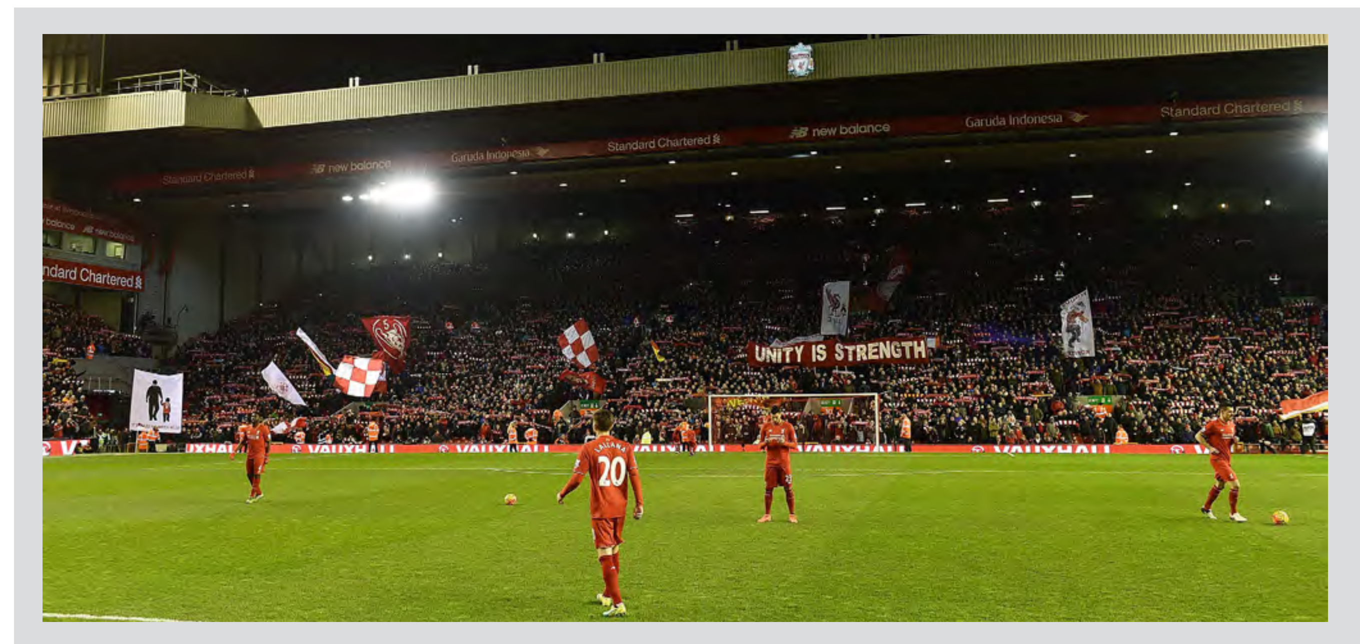
SPORT RELIEF REDS

Kicks programme participants from both Liverpool FC and Everton FC recently travelled to Media City in Manchester to take part in a 57-hour continuous five-a-side marathon in aid of Sport Relief.

In total over 1,000 people participated over the three-day event which was the equivalent of playing an entire Premier League season! The players who pulled on the red shirt to represent LFC Foundation were selected from the Kicks youth forum which meets once a week at the Anfield Sports & Community Centre (ASCC) to discuss and develop community improvement schemes in the local area. They also had a pop star in their ranks as Union J's Josh Cuthbert played and got his name on the scoresheet! At the final whistle Alan Shearer's team beat Robbie Savage's side by 547 goals to 529, but more importantly £370,592 had been raised.

Head of Liverpool FC Foundation Andrea Cooper, said; "It was the first time that some of these youngsters had been given the opportunity to represent LFC Foundation in a competitive game and mass-participation event. All of those involved proved to be exceptional role-models for not only the Foundation and Kicks but also for their local community."





OUR KIDS OUR FUTURE

Over the last three years Liverpool FC Foundation has successfully delivered a youth ambassador project engaging over 50 young people from across Merseyside. This year it is primarily focused on developing pathways for young people into employment or apprenticeship programmes.

The project receives funding from Liverpool City Council and in 2016 has partnered with local community-support company Brighter Futures. During the first six weeks of their training, ambassadors are supported by Brighter Futures in improving functional and vocational skills and their maths and English levels. They then progress into work-placements within the club across a variety of sectors. The first 'cohort' started in February and are enjoying placements within hospitality, museums and tours, and retail.

Project-lead Gemma Smith said: "The youth ambassador project is supporting the government's aim to reduce the number of unemployed 16-18 year-olds. The placements within the club are giving young people transferrable skills and providing them with a view of what the working world looks like."

Gill Carr from Brighter Futures has called it "a real pleasure to be working alongside LFC Foundation – the skills these young people acquire will make them more employable and ultimately build their confidence." Head of LFC Foundation Andrea Cooper added: "This project is one of many initiatives that we deliver to help young people reach their potential and improve life-chances. It is fantastic to see them developing key life-skills."

LIVERPOOL FC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE DELIVER A RANGE OF INITIATIVES THAT INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE HAPPEN FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION



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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p5: The Shankly Gates came first, unveiled on Anfield Road in the pre-season of 1982, followed by the Shankly statue erected outside the Spion Kop in 1997; **FOOTBALL p19:** Mamadou is one of nine skippers so far – the others are Jordan Henderson, James Milner, Lucas, Joe Allen, Kolo Toure, Christian Benteke, Jon Flanagan and Jose Enrique; **CLUB p87:** The seats would stretch for (c) six miles, and did you also know that if all the bricks and blocks were used to create a 0.5m high wall it would stretch further than the Channel Tunnel?



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